



**Barry G. Campbell CEO and Founder**  
**RESOURCES AND NETWORKING**  
**FOR THE PEOPLE—BY THE PEOPLE**



**VETERANS QUALITY OF  
LIFE  
ACCESS NETWORK INC.**

Volume II Issue VII  
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# VQLAN Newsletter

**Special Edition**

**November/December 2011**

**Dedicated to CEO**

***Man On A Mission***



**CEO/Founder 12 Years  
New York VA — 30 Years  
Hundreds of Awards  
Thousands of Accolades  
Thousands of Testimonies  
All Across The World  
Years 1981 to the Present**

**BARRY GORDON CAMPBELL**

**Making History**

## **THE LAST FIRE BASE : THE WALL**



**NEW MILLENNIUM ORGANIZATION**



## **WHAT BARRY G. CAMPBELL HAS DONE AND IS STILL DOING**

1. **CEO/Founder of VQLAN**
2. **Motivator**
3. **Motivational Speaker**
4. **Activist**
5. **Veteran Advocate**
6. **Hero To Many**
7. **Guru—Is An Information Bank Within Himself**
8. **Educator—Has Taught Classes For Years—How to Help Veterans Now**
9. **Producer—Many Shows—Gospel Music and Jazz Concerts, Domestic Violence Conference, etc.**
10. **Arranger—Many Shows—Co-Producer Art, Tap and Dance Shows**
11. **Chief Editor of VQLAN Newsletter—15 papers**
12. **Director of VQLAN Headquarters**
13. **Director of VQLAN website (vqlan.org) World Known**
14. **Every Other Month—Resources and Networking for Ever, General Meetings (115) Thousands of Guests  
Producing and Arranging All of Them**
15. **Creator of VQLAN Library**
16. **Worked at N.Y. Veterans Administration for 30 Years**
  - a. **Coordinator—Compensation & Pension**
  - b. **Agent Orange Coordinator**
  - c. **Once Persian Gulf Coordinator**
  - d. **Minority Veterans Program Coordinator (MVP VISN 3)**
17. **Half Gun Will Travel—Outreach to All Communities—How to Help a Veteran  
No Prejudices—No Separatism**
18. **In Newspapers—New York Times, Daily News, Amsterdam News, El Dario  
Daily Challenge, Whose Who In New York City**
19. **Veterans Day Parade-10 Years**
20. **World Known for Years**
21. **Radio, Cable TV in NYC area for Years—All Boroughs**
22. **Thousands of Accolades From Around the World**
23. **Gives to Charities Less Fortunate Than VQLAN**
24. **Has Given Out 87 Awards (certificates & plaques) to the People Who Stood Up With Him**

**He Has Accomplished This With No Money and No Support From The:**

1. **Veterans Administration**
2. **Congressman or Senators**
3. **The Veterans Themselves, With Their Prejudices and Separatism**

**He Did It With God and Love (Amen)**

## Local reps: Fix VA Office To Avoid Claims Errors

by Martin C. Evans

Newsday Sept. 25, 2011

Fourteen local members of Congress, including Long Island's five representatives, are calling on the Department of Veterans Affairs secretary to address problems at the agency's New York office that have led to errors and delays in disability claims from area Veterans.

The problems, which led to some Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans waiting for pay while others were overpaid, were identified in a July inspector general's report that examined procedures at the VA Regional Office in downtown Manhattan.

"With so many troops returning every day from Afghanistan and Iraq, we are greatly concerned that the New York VARO (Veteran Affairs Regional Office) may not be performing at the level our Veteran constituents need," Congress members wrote to Secretary Eric Shinseki in a Sept. 15 letter.

The inspector general's findings were based in part on a review of 68 of the 344 disability claims related to post-traumatic brain injury, and Agent Orange exposure that the New York regional office completed from October through December.

The inspector general's office also reviewed 30 of 316 rating decisions involving claims for temporary 100 percent disability

The New York office took an average of 257.1 days to finish compensation claims submitted by Veterans, 82 days longer than the VA's target of 175 days, according to the letter.

The report also revealed high levels of inaccuracies in the handling of claims at the New York office which were mishandled by VA personnel there, according to the report. Of eight review claims involving traumatic brain injury, five had been mishandled by regional office personnel, who granted them without basing them on required medical records.

Veterans Affairs issued a statement acknowledging claims backlog and error problems generally, and said the VA intended by 2015 to put in place "a system that processes all claims which should be within 125 days at a 98 percent accuracy level."

While some applicants await pay, errors in the 1998 disability claims, which should have been rescinded, got a total of \$122,465 extra because VA workers never scheduled a required medical re-examination — a common error in New York claims.

Classification of temporary 100 percent disability "could have continued uninterrupted over the course of the Veterans' lifetime," the report said.

([martin.evans@newsday.com](mailto:martin.evans@newsday.com))

## From Deployed to Unemployed

by Allison Bowen

Metro New York August 2, 2011

Abbas Malik guarded the Green Zone in Iraq, but he can't get hired as a mall security guard in Staten Island. After two Iraq tours, Malik 27, returned to the U.S. in 2009 and applied for overseas security jobs.

"Nothing bit," he said, so he next applied to guard the Guggenheim and Madison Square Garden and finally even the Staten Island Mall for some summer cash.

"I operated machine guns in Bagdad," Malik said, "but I can't have a flashlight at MSG."

He speaks fluent Urdu and was an interpreter in Iraq; but here in the U.S., Malik cannot get a translation job without a degree. And Army training doesn't count—for example, a military medic would have to get re-certified to become an EMT back in the States.

Malik, who is pursuing a political science degree at the College of Staten Island, said he was surprised to sense that his military skills intimidate, not impress prospective employers.

"They see my resume and they're like, 'Oh you're a designated marksman,'" and they just make a face.. he said. They probably assume I'm unstable."

He is not alone; 13 percent of NY City's 17,000 war Veterans are now unemployed. That's higher than the nations unemployment rate of 9 percent.

### By the numbers

17K

Number of the NY City soldiers that have served the U.S. military since 9/11

2,296

City's unemployed Iraq and Afghanistan-era Veterans

654

Unemployed Vets in Brooklyn

Kevin Kirwan, 33, spent 13 years in the Navy controlling complicated logistics in North Africa, Jerusalem and Italy.

Now living in Queens, his bachelor's degree in justice administration qualifies him for middle management jobs that he says after sending out 200 job applications, many employers tell him he is overqualified for entry level work.

It is very frustrating," I don't think it's a lack of effort. Malik said he is considering returning to war to pay the bills. "I'm irrationally looking at the military again as an option," he said. "Times are getting tougher."

([alison.bowen@metro.us](mailto:alison.bowen@metro.us))





## PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB PLAN

by Geoff Earle NY Posy

PART OF THE ARTICLE August 6, 2011

President Obama also unveiled his plan to create tax credits to encourage businesses to hire the nation's 1 million unemployed Veterans — including 200,000 who signed up after the 9/11 attacks.

Companies hiring unemployed Veterans would get a \$2,400 credit which would double if the Veteran was unemployed for six months or more.

## JOBS WELL DONE— Putting Hero Vets to Work

by Rita Delfina NY Post August 11, 2011

Plinio Ayala is saluting scores of returning Veterans by helping them come home to work. Ayala is president and CEO of Per Scholas, a Bronx based nonprofit that has launched a program for 100 Veterans who are home from Iraq and Afghanistan, giving them free computer-technician training and helping them find IT-related jobs.

"The unemployment rate in the returning Veterans population is very, very high," Ayala said, "This program allows those who risked their lives for this country to obtain the skills they need and enter the labor force."

So far, 60 Vets have graduated from the program, which began several months ago with a grant from Microsoft. It's expected that 80 percent of graduates will get fulltime Jobs, Ayala said.

"I'm trying to raise more funds to train more Vets," said Ayala, who won a New York Post Liberty medal for Leadership in 2006 for his work with the group, which refurbishes donated computers and gives them to low-income communities.

Per Scholas also provides digital literacy training to teach people to use the computer and offers a 15 week training course to 400 people in the city each year to help them become IT professionals.

## VA TECHNOLOGY KEEPS VETS INFORMED

The Dept. of Veterans Affairs is reaching out to keep Veterans informed using new technology like phones. From **eBenefits** ([www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)) to Blue Button ([www.va.gov/bluebutton](http://www.va.gov/bluebutton)), VA is serious about automated electronic outreach. The smartphone app PTSD Coach ([www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/PTSDcoach.asp](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/PTSDcoach.asp)) was jointly designed by the VA and DoD for Veterans and service members who are experiencing PTSD symptoms. The Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255, press 1) and its new chat feature ([www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans/Default.aspx](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans/Default.aspx)) are always available to Veterans and service members who need to talk to someone.

## HIRING HEROES Senator Kirstein Gillabrand

With high unemployment among recent Vets, Gillabrand announces new push to equip returning troops with job training. Legislation requires all US service members to take job-skills training before leaving the military, changes federal job hiring practices, and improves job placement for troops.

Washington, D.C. — with 13.3 percent of recent Veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan unemployed across New York State as of June 2011, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), **U.S. Senator Kirstein Gillabrand**, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is making a new push to pass the **Hiring Heroes Act of 2011**, legislation that would equip all returning U.S. troops with critical job skills training and ensure more job opportunities for Veterans.

The legislation seeks to help create new jobs for returning Veterans through increased job training, personal employment assessments and changing federal hiring practices. The legislation would equip all returning U.S. troops with critical job skills training through the government's Transition Assistance Program (TAP), which provides job-search techniques and resume and interviewing workshops.

"Too many of our troops who risk their lives protecting our country return home to an alarming rate of joblessness," **Senator Gillabrand** said. "We must combat this growing crisis and leverage our talented pool of Veterans by providing them with a pathway to economic success. When our brave men and women return, we need to ensure they are equipped with valuable job skills and open doors to employment opportunities."

Based on BLS data, an estimate of more than 8,000 recent Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are unemployed across New York as of June 2011.



Multidisciplinary Association For Psychedelic Studies

is currently seeking regulatory approval to conduct a study of smoked and/or vaporized marijuana for symptoms of PTSD in Veterans of war.

MAPS is the only organization working to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of botanical marijuana as a prescription medicine for specific medical uses to the satisfaction of the US Food and Drug Administration.

MAPS' effort to initiate medical marijuana research have been hindered by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) since its inception in 1986. NIDA's monopoly on the supply of marijuana for research and the DEA's refusal to allow researchers to grow their own has effectively paralyzed medical marijuana research and for over ten years MAPS has been involved in a legal struggle against the DEA to end this situation.

For frequently updated information about completed, or ongoing MAPS studies go to the web at:

<http://www.maps.org/research/mmj/>





## FUTURE PLANS OF THE CEO OF VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK, INC.

1. To have a VQLAN office in every state in communities that need it the most
2. To make sure every Veteran in the word is informed properly.
3. To cut out prejudice and separatism forever
4. To make sure whatever happened in the last 50 years will never happen again. We are talking about Veterans benefits, compensation and pension, survivor benefits, burial benefits, etc. Just being informed properly.
5. Making sure the Veteran does not have to pay anything or sign up with people to receive the help he/she needs (Basic Needs)
6. VQLAN will navigate the system by helping them fill out forms and applications. Veterans will receive updated information on community, city, state and government resources and networking properly.
7. To make sure every Veteran is treated fairly and they know it.

### PLANS FOR THE FUTURE - AUGUST 2011

Plain and simple - there is too much suffering when I figured out how to stop the suffering years ago. My actions speak louder than my words.

I can't look back because I know the road ahead of me is longer. The fight against prejudices, separatism and making sure people are treated fairly are the world's biggest battle of all.



## MORE LIKELY TO ATTEMPT SUICIDE

Sharon Jayson USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — College students who served in the military have a suicide attempt rate six times higher than the average college students, suggests research presented Thursday at a meeting of the American Psychological Associations. It found students who are Veterans also report thinking about suicide or planning their death at a significantly higher rates. Researchers with the National Center for Veterans' Studies at the University of Utah surveyed 525 Veterans, average age 26. Almost all (98%) had been deployed in either Iraq or Afghanistan and 58% to 60% reported experiencing combat.

Nearly half (46%) of the 415 men and 110 women studied reported having had suicide thoughts sometime in their lives. 20% had suicidal thoughts with a plan. That compares with 2010 data from the American College Health Association, which showed 6% of college students reported seriously considering suicide.

**Rate is six times that of the general student body**

Suicidal thinking with a plan is considered a serious risk, says lead author M. David Rudd, a psychologist at the Utah center, who presented the study. "That's more than triple the general student population," he says. "There's been an enormous amount of research on Veterans

on campus."

The Student Veterans of America, a national coalition that represents about 20,000 students who are Veterans, distributed the survey to both full-time and part-time students this year. "Many of these men and women who serve our country are barely out of adolescence," says clinical psychologist Barbara Van Dahien of Washington, who founded Give an Hour, an organization that provides free mental health care to returning troops and their families. "There are a lot of reasons for concern about these very young men and women who have been put in harm's way."

## VA CAREGIVER PROGRAM NEWS

50+ Lifestyles News

A month after the Department of Veterans Affairs began processing applications for primary family caregivers of eligible post 9/11 Veterans, officials reported steady progress towards delivery of the new services and benefits. The new law provides eligible family care-givers who care for severely disabled Veterans a monthly stipend, mental-health services and access to health-care, or services under a health plan. Caregivers can also qualify for travel expenses, including lodging and per diem when accompanying their family member for care, comprehensive caregiver training, medical support and respite care. For more information, visit the [www.caregiver.va.gov/](http://www.caregiver.va.gov/) or call the VA's Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274

Rudd says it's unclear how many Veterans go to school after their military service, but he says estimates suggest almost 1 million have left the military since the beginning of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The University of Texas-Austin is among the campuses working to help student Veterans. "We've aware over the last few years that we would be expecting more and more college Veterans on our campus, so in preparation for that, we want to make sure we have services in place to support them while they're here," says Chris Brownson, director of UT-Austin's Counseling and Mental Health Center.

This fall, the university will have a campus psychologist devoted to student Veterans, an effort funded by a grant from the Veterans Administration. More details about the program will be presented today at a session about this emotional transition.

Rudd says the overwhelming majority of those with serious suicide risks are struggling with post-traumatic stress syndrome, which include significant anxiety, intrusive thoughts, sleep disturbances and recurring images of what happened in combat.

"The data we uncovered actually indicates these men and women are at a more significant risk than Veterans seeking care from the VA," he says.

## VETS HELP TRADE CENTER RISE AGAIN

by Gregg Zoroya USA Today

NEW YORK— The battered desert combat boots that iron-worker Richard Farrell Mohamed wears on the job at the site of the destroyed World Trade Center are not the usual footwear here.

Mohamed — who grew up a tough kid of Egyptian, Russian and Irish descent from Rockaway, N.Y. — wore the boots when he went to war in Iraq after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 22, 2001.

On that clear day, he watched the two Towers fall on television while he was in English class at the Lindenhurst High School Alternative Learning Center in Long Island. On this day nearly a decade later, he was helping rebuild what al-Qaeda destroyed in an act he says determined the course of his life.

"You grow up here. 9/11 happens. You join (the National Guard). You go to war. You come home. Then you're rebuilding," he says. "You're like a full part of the whole thing."

About a thousand workers are building five office buildings at the World Trade Center site — including the 1,776-foot centerpiece, WTC I. For some, the job has a particular special meaning. Labor officials estimate that a few dozen or more U.S. Military combat Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, like Mohamed, are on construction crews working at the site.

They are here to restore what terrorists destroyed. The attack prompted a U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and led these Veterans - turned construction workers to war and then back to the ground where 2,753 people died. See entire article and photos at

<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>



# State of New York Proclamation

*from*

***Senator Andrew J. Lanza***

HONORING Barry G. Campbell for his dedication to the United States of America and the Veterans Rights.

WHEREAS, Barry G. Campbell served in the United States Army from 1972-1975; and

WHEREAS, Barry G. Campbell joined the Veterans Affairs Bureau in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Barry G. Campbell has received three certificates of commendation from the New York City chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, Barry G. Campbell says "I help the people America wants to forget about, when I came out of the service I saw how veterans were mistreated. I wanted to help them, and I created a way to do it"; and

WHEREAS, Barry G. Campbell currently works as a compensation and pension coordinator with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Manhattan, NY; and

WHEREAS, Barry G. Campbell created a company called Veterans Quality of Life Access Network, a compiled database of information that every veteran is entitled to that helps veterans file claims and get the benefits they deserve; and

WHEREAS, Barry G. Campbell is a true champion of Veterans Rights; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, On behalf of the New York State Senate, I take this opportunity to honor Barry G. Campbell; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Proclamation, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Barry G. Campbell.



Senator Andrew J. Lanza  
Senator - 24th District





**CEO BARRY G, CAMPBELL**



Once again I was proud to be at the Graduation Ceremony at Samaritan Village to see so many Veterans coming out of the dark into the light. It was a beautiful experience sharing my love: **CEO 9-22-11**



**Congratulations** to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Boham at their Wedding on August 29, 2011.



**The World Needs More People Like Him.**



**CEO:** I felt very proud to attend the first Golden Community Activist Award presented to honor Mr. Geoffrey Johnson, VQLAN member on October 7, 2011. *'It was a beautiful affair.'* CEO and wife attended for Geoffrey Johnson

## VQLAN Giving It Back To The People



Robert Mirra Jay F. Johnson Donald Hogan



Robert Mirra Barry G. Campbell



Anthony J. Williams

VQLAN members received a certificate of appreciation for their participation in the May VQLAN and Prophecies Gallery Veterans Art Show at the Prophecies Gallery in Brooklyn, NY. Everyone also received a copy of the Veterans Art Show DVD. The art show is planned to be a yearly event.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

**When obtaining a law firm, there are questions that you should ask an attorney.**

1. What will my claim cost me?
2. What is your success rate?
3. How much is my case worth?
4. Do you provide updates for clients?
5. Do you take telephone calls for clients?
6. Do you respond to e-mails from clients?
7. Do you want me to send my original documents?
8. Should I use a social security firm for my VA benefits?
9. Can I get Social Security benefits and VA benefits?
10. Why should I be represented by an attorney?
11. Does my lawyer need to be in Washington D.C.?
12. How do I hire an attorney?
13. What is the US Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims?
14. What is the process at that court?
15. How long will my case take at court.
16. How do I contact the VA for a status report of my claim?
17. How do I file a claim for benefits?
18. Are my service connected disability payments taxable?
19. How can I find out about other benefits that may be available to me and/or my family?
20. Why should I except a remand from the court?
21. How do I get an earlier effected date for my disability?
22. Can I open an old claim?
23. What is CUE?
24. What is TDIU?
25. How do I get a copy of my DD214

For additional information on frequently asked questions and the answers to these question go to: [www.legalhealthforvets.com/faq/](http://www.legalhealthforvets.com/faq/) or stop by the **VQLAN** office at **St. Ambrose Church, 9 West 130th. St.** (off 5th Ave.) New York, NY 10037 telephone: **212-234-9544**

Office Hours: **Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**Answer for item # 9. Yes**, however, this applies to **SSD** benefits and **VA compensation** benefits. It does not apply to SSI and VA pension benefits. SSI and VA Pension benefits are income and asset tested and cannot generally be combined with other benefits.

## DOUBLE JEOPARDY MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

Roughly one in seven of America's active duty military soldiers is a woman, but a NOW investigation found that it is widespread. One study of National Guards and Reserve Forces found that one in every four women have been assaulted or raped. Last year alone over 3,000 women have reported that they have been raped. Then once they return home and are Veterans, many women Veterans found that this behavior continues when they attend VA programs. The same attitude by male Veterans persists. (DOUBLE JEOPARDY)

## LEGISLATION IMPROVED BENEFITS SYSTEMS FOR VETERANS AND UPDATES ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY REQUIREMENTS

**H.R. 1627**, as amended, also takes into consideration Arlington National Cemetery's concerns voiced at June's subcommittees hearing, allowing for exceptions to family member burial practices and transparency in the process for placing monuments at Arlington.

The three pieces of legislation favorably reported to the full committee are:

**H.R. 1407**, the Veterans. Compensation Cost-of Living Adjustment Act of 2011 (introduced by Rep. Ryan, Rep. LoBiondo, and Rep. Stutzman) - as amended.

**H.R. 1485**, the Veterans Appeals Improvement Act Of 2011 (introduced by Rep. Filner) - as amended.

**H.R. 1627**, To amend Title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements for placement of monuments in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes (introduced by Rep. Miller, Rep. Johnson, and Rep. Roe) - as amended.

For more news from the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, please visit: <http://Veterans.House.Gov>

Information submitted by Craig of Long Island.



## NEW FUNDS HELP WOUNDED WARRIORS

Army senior leaders and the organization Operation Homefront recently launched the Army Homefront Fund," which will aid wounded warriors from the Army. Operation Homefront has provided cash grants to assist Soldiers and their families with everyday expenses such as rent, food and health care. The organization serves all service members from all services. To request aid or learn more, visit [www.armyhomefrontfund.org](http://www.armyhomefrontfund.org) or [www.operationhomefront.net](http://www.operationhomefront.net)

## NORTHPORT VA MEDICAL CENTER SELECTED TO LAUNCH CHILDCARE PILOT

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced the launch of a free, drop-in childcare service center at Northport VA Medical Center as well as two other VA medical centers.

The pilot centers are part of VA's continuing effort for eligible Veterans, particularly the growing number of women Veterans. Congress established this childcare initiative as part of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 which was signed by the President in May 2010.

Northport VA Medical Center is scheduled to start accepting Veterans' children, age 6 weeks to 12 years, this fall. The childcare center will be open from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and have the ability to care for 30 children at any one time.

The childcare center will be operated by "Wee Luv Em" daycare, Northport's onsite licensed childcare provider. Drop-in services will be offered free to Veterans who have same day appointments at the medical center.

Developing the pilot program was facilitated by the Women Veteran Health Strategic Health Care Group, which strives to make positive changes in the provisions of care for all women Veterans.

Women Veterans are the fastest growing segments of the Veterans population. Of the 22.7 million living Veterans, more than 1.8 million are women. They comprise nearly eight percent of the total Veterans who use VA health care services. VA estimates women Veterans population by 2020 are 9.5 percent of the VA patients.

For more information about VA programs and services for women Veterans, please visit: [www.va.gov/womenvet](http://www.va.gov/womenvet) and

[www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth)

## COLLATERAL DAMAGE, HIGH SUICIDE RATE BY IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN WAR VETS ADDS TO HIDDEN COST

Daily News Juan Gonzalez July 8, 2011

On Christmas Eve of 2003, Kevin Lucey noticed for the first time sign of 'hidden wounds' ravaging his grown son, Jeff.

Jeff Lucey, a 23-year-old Marine lance corporal had been back from Iraq just a months and was living quietly with his parents in Belchertown, Mass.

That night, Jeff suddenly 'took off his dog tags' and tossed them at his

younger sister, crying, and began saying he was nothing more than a murderer, the father recalled yesterday.

Stunned family members urged him to seek professional help. But having applied for a state police job, Kevin was afraid that the 'stigma' of having 'possible issues' would ruin his job prospects, the father said.

Over the next few months, the young man's symptoms kept getting worse. His bouts of rage at the government and at the war grew more frequent. He drank heavily, once even totaling the family car in an accident. He told his parents chilling stories of Iraq prisoners he has killed, — stories the military has since claimed are not substantiated.

But most important of all, Jeff Lucey talked often of suicide. His parents finally convinced him that May to get treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs, but they were shocked by the agency's slow response, the bureaucracy they encountered, and by the tendency of VA doctors to release his son after a few days'

"Here you have a Marine struggling to try to take the next breath and they are demanding the discharge papers and they were demanding he travel approximately 30 to 40 miles away from our home for treatment," Kevin Lucey said.

On the night of June 21, after once again threatening suicide and talking by phone with a VA counselor, Jeff approached his father. He asked if he could sit on his lap the way he had done as a little child. "We rocked for about 45 minutes and then he went to his bed room," the father said.

The next day, Kevin Lucey found the body of his son in the basement of the house, his neck bound with a garden hose, dangling from the beams in the ceiling. Next to the body was shrine with Jeff's dog tags, two dog tags of Iraqi soldiers his son claimed to have killed, several family photos arranged in a semicircle, a photo of his prison in the middle and tree notes.

"He once again was in my lap as I was cutting him down from the beams," the dad said.

Amazing, the name of Jeff Lucey will never appear in any casualty roll of these dreadful wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, conflicts that had gone on for far too long and have cost our nation far more than politicians have the courage to admit.

President Obama finally began to acknowledge a small part of that hidden cost this week. From now on he will send letters of condolence to families of soldiers who commit suicide while deployed in those wars.

Greg Keesling of Indianapolis is hopeful that will remove stigma from soldiers suffering from post traumatic stress. Keesling's son Chance, killed himself in Iraq in 2009 after a second deployment. "The policy change says to every single soldier in the military, :Look out for your battle buddy," Keesling said.

But the new policy only affects soldiers on the battle field. Everyday in America Veterans commit suicide— a far higher rate than in the general population.

Those Veterans, wounded warriors with names like Jeff Lucey, will haunt us for decades. They are the cost of war no one wants to count.





**HE MADE IT LOOK EASY**

**THE TRUTH IS THE FIGHT  
NEVER ENDS**

**NOW HE KNOWS WHY VETERANS  
ARE NOT BEING HELPED  
PROPERLY**

**THE ODDS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN  
AGAINST HIM AND HE STILL WINS  
WITH GOD'S HELP**

**YOU THINK THE FIGHT IS OVER  
(RETIREMENT) BUT HE KNOWS IT  
HAS JUST BEGUN**

**STAY TUNED**



## MR. CONTROVERSY

*Only God knows what I have been through. All of the controversy surrounding me for thirty years.*

*There are a lot of V.A. employees and most understood what I was doing. Many helped in the blackballing and smiled in my face but the whole N.Y. V.A., regional offices, veteran centers and veteran service organizations Knew!!! (widespread).*

*I have stood where no one could or would. I have helped the ones America has forgotten.*

*I have treated everyone fair with no prejudices and it showed. I helped more veterans than any one could imagine. Most people know but can't say it. Against all odds I have done this to help the people and I ran into the prejudices of America. Most did not survive but I did. Hopefully by me doing the right thing, the next man who wants to help people won't go through what I did. What was amazing is I stayed focused and helped as many as I could.*

*P.S. The more they hated, the stronger I got (with God)*









Russ T. McPherson

August 12, 2001

Barry Campbell

Dear Barry:

The other day, I was over to the VA on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, to bring my records up to date with the assign doctor. I asked about you, and was told that you have retired. I am so happy for you. Our God has blessed you to come through that step in life.

Obviously, your determination in helping veterans was from our God, Jehovah. All too common, but more important in self valuation for those who made the supreme sacrifice for a brighter future for them, the veterans in whom you have done will be reported.

Your history at the VA Hospital, dealing with the veterans in helping them to deal with reality was an ever,whelming revealed fact and findings.

And now, that you have passed that level stepped that our God has set for you, file as the next level step for you to climb. Your organization will always be your second desire. I encourage you to examine what I am going to say in this letter, and I have tailored this letter to say:

I've often said, that your charm is who you are, but character is who you are at all times. It is obvious that your strong character motivates you to do what is right, no matter what the circumstances might be. Let's examine your life through the sequence you have lived. With the knowledge and the results you have showed that there isn't any problem a veteran could have, that you can't handle.

"With our God, His plan for your life is just began!"



The door of opportunities has just begun to open for you. God has developed in you a fire of understanding in which to help people, and that will never die. Now that a New set of veterans are coming home, and your services are needed more these days. "Consisted a part-time job, with a high level position with (Big Money) in a large Corporation, as Catholic Charities, Ford Motor Co., Banks, Insurance Co., and any Investment firms." "Now is the your time to make it Big, and think Big."

"All corporations will need help in handling these Boys coming home."

I want you to think about this! You can pick your own price and level of pay to handle these up-coming veterans that are coming home. With your common sense approach and level of experience you will not need to have any degree on paper. Your experience alone has more weight. You have earned more PhD's in handling veterans than any psychology. With all the awards given to you through the years, you have guaranteed you're up coming future. Use it to your advantage now. Our God has shaped you for this will "education in handling these problems."

You are highly wanted in any top corporation now, in handling the up coming veterans coming home. "A God-like man, in which you are."

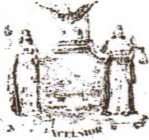
If you embrace this idea, I wish you would propel your self in it. Just a part-time job at first. We must remind ourselves that we're on God's team and the battle has already been won.

Lord, my God, Jehovah grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference, Amen.

P.s. I am cancer free for the last Two years. My God, Jehovah as blessed me. Kiss your wife for me, your friend.

Russ  
Reyes





MICHAEL CUSICK  
Assemblyman 63<sup>rd</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

COMMITTEES  
Governmental Employees  
Higher Education  
Mental Health  
Transportation  
Veterans Affairs  
Ways and Means

May 4, 2011

Mr. Barry G. Campbell  
Department of Veterans Affairs

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Congratulations on the occasion of your retirement from the Department of Veterans Affairs! Your thirty years of selfless service to our country and fellow men and women serve as a beacon to our community, state, and nation.

Beginning with your service in the United States Army in 1972 and through the foundation of *Veterans Quality of Life Access Network*, it is evident that your whole life has been spent in uniform or aiding those who wear the uniform. The noble endeavors which you have undertaken are the highest form of public service, and I want to extend a sincere "thank you" to you.

In the words of George Washington:

The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.

There must be satisfaction in knowing that you devoted your life to treating and appreciating the veterans that President Washington so eloquently spoke of in the above quote. May your well-deserved retirement be long and peaceful.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Cusick  
Member of Assembly





## MANHATTAN VETERANS

### ADVOCACY COUNCIL (MVAC) NYVA

MVAC has recently been re-organized. The former Manhattan Veterans Advisory Council is no more. Veterans who receive mental health services at the NYVA Hospital felt the need to continue the work that the previous council had started. On September 27, 2011 the council presented certificates of appreciation to all the Veterans who had participated in the organization. Also four other certificates were presented, employee Cecilia Freyes, DoD retired employee Carlos Guichardo and the two PSC (Clubhouse) members, cook Alberto Ruiz Jr. and his assistant Teddy Rosario for their more than ten years service to that program.

The MVAC Chairman felt that in order for the former council to have closure, the Veterans who participated needed to close that chapter in that council with dignity. With unanimous agreement the certificates were presented. Now the new council can go forward as they attempt to advocate for Veterans and their families who receive mental health services at the hospital. Among the attendees were Dr. Adam Wolkin, Dr. Rubenstein and Dr. Akin of Mental Health Services.

The Veterans Advocacy Councils are in every state in the country. Many are doing well and some are barely getting off the ground. The Councils are Veteran run and operated. The Chairman hopes to invite Veterans Quality of Life Access Network, Inc., and other community and Veteran organizations to participate in the mission of the MVAC.

As Council Chair, I hope to be able to use what I have learned through VQLAN and other experiences to advocate for Veterans. The Council uses the Mental Health Advocacy Council Guide for purposes of its operational structure. Any Veteran or family member is welcome to join the MVAC. The council meets every Tuesday at 12:00 PM in room 2644 at the NYVA Hospital.

*by Anthony J. Williams / Editor*

## AMERICA'S MENTAL HEALTH STATE BY STATE

Huffington Post - Amanda Chan 10-13-11

Nearly 20% of Americans — 44.5 million adults — experience some type of mental illness over the past year, according to a new report from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Agency (SAMHSA). The report details state by state the percent of the population who has suffered a mental illness.

"Mental Illness is treatable and people can recover to live full, productive lives. Unfortunately in the past year only 37.9 percent of adults with mental health problems receive any type of care," SAMHSA Administrator Pamela S. Hyde said in a statement. "The chasm between need and care is costly both in terms of personal health because of missed opportunity to prevent disability and health care expenditures related to illness such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity."

The report counts 'mental illness' as any sort of mental, behavior that is diagnosed or emotional disorder that is diagnosable from the DSM-IV. The disorder must cause "substantial functional impairment" or must be defined as a serious mental illness that requires treatment.

The article states that New York State is number 26, Connecticut is number 29, New Jersey is number 45 and Washington D.C. is number 13.

## VETERANS TREATMENT COURT STUDIES AND STATISTICS

from NADCP

Veterans Treatment Courts are responses to the growing trend of Veterans appearing before the court to face charges stemming from substance abuse or mental illness. Drug and Mental Health Courts have always served Veterans, but research has shown that traditional services do not always meet the Veterans needs. Most Veterans are entitled to treatment through the VA. Veterans Treatment courts help connect them with these benefits. The Facts: 23,440,000 Veterans in the United States (source U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.)

1.7 million Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan

1 in 5 report symptoms of mental illness

1 in 4 Veterans age 18-25 met criteria for substance abuse in 2006

1.8 Vets met the criteria to establish a link between substance abuse and mental illness.

The US Dept of Veterans Affairs estimates that as many as one third of the adult homeless population has served in the military and at any given time there are as many as 107,000 homeless Veterans. ( see entire articles at <http://www.nadcp.org/node/442> )



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MAKE MONEY ORDER TO **BARRY G. CAMPBELL**



## MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

Roughly one in seven of America's active duty military soldiers is a woman, but a NOW investigation found that sexual assault and rape is wide spread. One study of the National Guard and Reserve forces found that almost one in four women has been assaulted or raped. Last year alone almost 3,000 soldiers reported sexual assault and rape by other soldiers.

In one of the only national television broadcasts of the issue, NOW features women who speak out for the first time about what happened. One woman recounts her ordeal of rape by her superior officer. Many more don't report the incidents for fear of how it will affect their careers. The shock phenomenon has a label, Military Sexual Trauma, or MST. NOW meets women courageously battling to overcome their MST, bringing light to an issue that's putting the Army to shame.

A NOW exclusive investigation: [Related links.](#)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Military Sexual Trauma Program.

A Department of Veterans Affairs report on MST released in 2005, though originally due by March, 2001.

National Center for PTSD: Fact sheet on MST

Journal of Interpersonal Violence: Sexual Harassment and Assault as Predictors of PTSD Symptomatology Among U.S. Female Persian Gulf War Military Personnel. {pdf}. Wolfe, Jessica, et al. Feb. 1998

Chicago Foundation for Women: A call to Action For The Safety of Women or Girls.

ABC News: Pentagon Reports Increase In Sexual Assaults As VA Opens New Facilities For Women See video on Military Sexual Trauma go to <http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/336/> and for links to other articles.

## SEXUAL ASSAULTS AT VA FACILITIES

victimizes the most vulnerable USA TODAY 6-14-11

A female patient in a locked psychiatric unit at a Veterans medical center was sexually assaulted repeatedly by a fellow patient. At an assisted-living facility also run by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, a male patient was raped by his roommate, who turned out to be a convicted sex offender. At yet another VA facility, a female Veteran reported that an employee made sexually inappropriate contact with her during treatment sessions.

Those abuses, exposed this week in congressional testimony, suggest - not for the first time - that something is very wrong at the VA, which is supposed to provide support and be a haven for America's Veterans. But they are not the worst of what has happened in the VA's medical facilities. The people who committed those assaults were prosecuted. Investigators for Congress' Accountability Office uncovered 42 alleged rapes since 2007 that were not reported to top officials, as VA rules require. Worst yet the dept., is so indifference to the program that it can't even say

with certainty whether they were reported to police or whether anyone was prosecuted.

The GAO's report describes a dysfunctional security system and identifies 284 sexual assaults at 105 facilities in a three-and-a-half year span. The victims included men and women, employees and patients. Some were being treated for mental illness, substance abuse or post-traumatic stress - people at their most vulnerable. The only conclusion is that, despite their protectionism VA leaders - like Pentagon and military academy officials before them - haven't paid enough attention to sexual assaults in places under their jurisdiction.

While the VA's health care system is considered generally good, this latest scandal is just one in a series of failures that has beset the department over the years: Long waits for disability claims. Even longer waits for appeals. Lost or destroyed records. Maintenance problems in clinics. Dirty equipment used for colonoscopies. And now sexual assault.

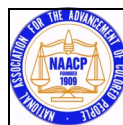
### Among the GAO's most significant findings:

\* The VA does not systematically monitor and track sexual incidents in a central data base, making it impossible to pinpoint problem facilities. \* At five facilities the GAO looked at dept, security equipment and they were often ineffective or malfunctioning. \* Some patients at the five facilities had criminal records for sexual offenses, but VA staff, who rely on patients to reveal this information, did not always know about the crime.

Because the VA now services twice as many women as it did in 2000, some in co-ed residential facilities, it should have anticipated problems.

VA officials who were grilled on Monday by members of the House Committee on House Veterans' Affairs, that one rape is intolerable. But a better barometer of their attitudes was their inability to anticipate an answer to an obvious question: How many alleged rapes have been reported since August, when the GAO probe ended? William Schoenard, the top VA official testifying, didn't know. The answer came Tuesday, Nine, three that has been substantiated.

Many solutions are being offered to improve the system: tighter security, better monitoring and a proposed law that mandates a central data base for the reports. All helpful obvious. But none will be effective if leadership is willfully oblivious.



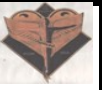
**NAACP Mid Manhattan Branch, Roy Wilkens**  
Center, 270 W. 96th. St. New York, NY 10025  
November 16, 2011 at 6:00 PM

**Guest Speaker CEO/ VQLAN Barry G. Campbell**



## UNITED NATIONS

**CEO invited to attend Award Ceremony**  
**for recognition of Staten Island**  
**Community Activist Mr. Bobby Digi**  
**on October 20, 2011**



VQLAN website is one of the most innovative yet for people. Donald Hogan and the CEO 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, claims, issues and information. VQLAN is a new millennium organization, Veterans helping Veterans.

**There is no  
stopping us now.**



First site over 50,000 hits

For the non-believers

**4,316 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.

**FOR REAL**

**VQLAN is that organization**

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

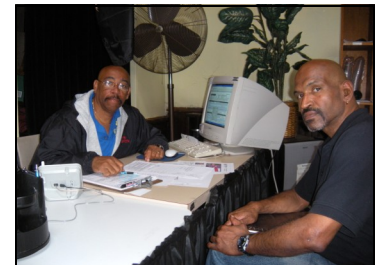


**Join VQLAN in the  
Veterans' Day Parade  
November 11, 2012  
11:00 AM 26th. Street  
and 5th. Avenue**



## Veterans Quality of Life is in the Process of Revamping — CEO Full Time Now

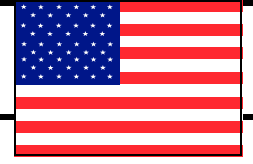
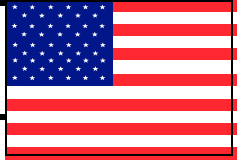
**VQLAN's Veterans Library always up to date**



VQLAN Salutes female Veterans. We know what you have been through. CEO — I have helped more rape victims, both men and women more than anyone knows and that was the tip of the iceberg.

**America's Secret — America's Disgrace**

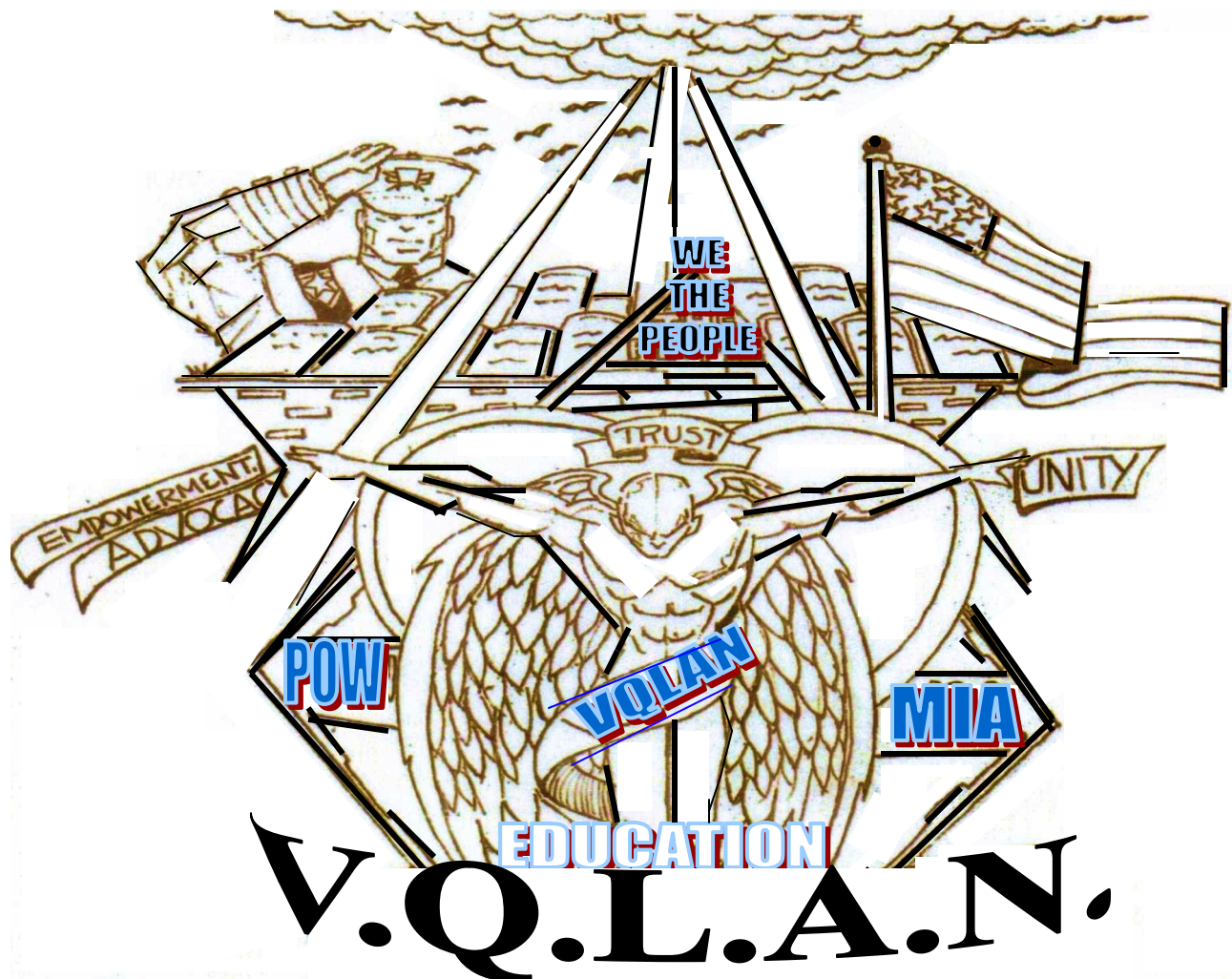




**IN A  
CLASS  
BY ITSELF**



**MANY ARE CALLED  
FEW ARE CHOSEN**



**VETERANS QUALITY OF LIFE ACCESS NETWORK**

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IS  
NOT  
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AND  
BEYOND**

