



BACK IN THE WORLD

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VVA Chapter 12 ♦ Newsletter

July August 2019



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12

PO Box 276, Allenhurst, NJ 07711

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Presidents Message



I hope everyone had a great summer. September is here which is Back to School for our grandkids, NFL football and time for us to get back in the swing of things.

During the past month we were able to get back on track with Home Depot after Ernie and I had a round table with new District Manager, store manager and team captain . WALL WASHING SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 18 @ 9.00AM! Also, we received a \$4500.00 grant for our cremains project.

Once again, Chapter Color Guard will attend the annual POW/MIA service at VFW2179 Middletown, September 20 ,2019 starting time is schedule for 7:00pm all member are welcome to attend.

October 13th will be the annual Newark Stand Down, anyone interested in volunteering for the day, please contact Mike Quilty at 732-939-8938 or email quiltym@gmail.com.

This year the State Council will be holding their Chapel of Four Chaplains ceremony at the Coast Guard Station in Cape May on October 20 at 1:00pm with refreshment following at American Legion Post 184. Four Chapter members were nominated this year.

The Colonel



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 Dorio 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.**



Eligible Blue Water Navy Veterans may now be entitled to disability compensation benefits according to the Department of Veterans Affairs

VA US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NEWS RELEASE

VA extends Agent Orange presumption to 'Blue Water Navy' Veterans Eligible Veterans may now be entitled to disability compensation benefits

July 5, 2019, 04:54:00 PM

WASHINGTON --- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing to process Agent Orange exposure claims for "Blue Water Navy" Veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975.

These Veterans may be eligible for presumption of herbicide exposure through Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, which was signed into law June 25, 2019, and goes into effect Jan. 1, 2020. They may also qualify for a presumption of service connection if they have a disease that is recognized as being associated with herbicide exposure.

The bipartisan Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act gives VA until Jan. 1, 2020, to begin deciding Blue Water Navy related claims. By staying claims decisions until that date, VA is complying with the law that Congress wrote and passed.

"VA is dedicated to ensuring that all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "We are working to ensure that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Blue Water Veteran community and minimize the impact on all Veterans filing for disability compensation."

Blue Water Navy Veterans are encouraged to submit disability compensation claims for conditions presumed to be related to Agent Orange exposure. Veterans over age 85 or with life-threatening illnesses will have priority in claims processing.

Veterans who previously were denied for an Agent Orange related presumptive condition can file a new claim based on the change in law. Eligible survivors of deceased Blue Water Navy Veterans also may benefit from the new law and may file claims for benefits based on the Veterans' service.

News Flash



(continued)

The new law affects Veterans who served on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, as defined in Public Law 116-23. An estimated 420,000 to 560,000 Vietnam-era Veterans may be considered Blue Water Navy Veterans.

To qualify, under the new law, these Veterans must have a disease associated with herbicide exposure, as listed in 38 Code of Federal Regulations section 3.309(e).

Agent Orange presumptive conditions are:

- * AL amyloidosis
- * Chloracne or similar acneiform disease
- * Chronic B-cell leukemias
- * Diabetes mellitus Type 2
- * Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin's disease
- * Ischemic heart disease
- * Multiple myeloma
- * Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- * Parkinson's disease
- * Peripheral neuropathy, early-onset
- * Porphyria cutanea tarda
- * Prostate cancer
- * Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- * Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma).

For more information about Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam waters (Blue Water Navy Veterans), visit <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/navy-coast-guard-ships-vietnam/>.

Veterans seeking more information should contact their Veterans Service Officer, call VA's toll-free number at 800-827-1000 or visit the VA Blue Water Navy Agent Orange website.

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Courtesy of Carol Olszanecki, Blue Water Navy widow. Anyone out there that's a Blue Water Navy veteran needs to pay close attention to what NVLSP has to say about the impact of this new law.

WASHINGTON -The National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) issued the following statement regarding President Trump's signing of [H.R.299](#), the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, into law.

"The signing of H.R. 299 into law is long overdue recognition of the suffering Blue Water Vietnam Veterans have endured for our country and its connection to Agent Orange exposure," said Bart Stichman, NVLSP Executive Director. "But while H.R. 299 commendably gives these veterans and their survivors the right to retroactive benefits, it unfortunately fails to require that the VA automatically identify the thousands of veterans and survivors who are entitled to retroactive benefits back to the date their prior claim was filed."

"The fruits of H.R. 299 will only be received if veterans and their survivors find out about their rights to retroactive benefits through VA outreach and then affirmatively file a new claim," said Stichman. "Obviously, only a percentage of those entitled will benefit. Thus, Congress has unfortunately thrown thousands of disabled veterans and their survivors a lifeline that is a foot short."

H.R. 299 follows the recent [Procopio v. Wilkie](#) decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, which invalidated the VA rule denying the presumption of Agent Orange exposure to all veterans who served in the 12 nautical mile territorial sea of the Republic of Vietnam.

With the Federal Circuit's decision in Procopio, tens of thousands of Blue Water Vietnam Veterans who served in the 12 nautical mile territorial sea of the Republic of Vietnam or their survivors now can obtain service-connected VA disability or death benefits for diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure. Diseases the VA presumes are associated with Agent Orange exposure include ischemic heart disease, type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's disease, and numerous cancers. A full list of the diseases that the VA presumes are associated with exposure to Agent Orange can be found at [PublicHealth.va.gov](#). Survivors of Blue Water Vietnam Veterans who died from one of these diseases would also become entitled to service-connected death benefits (known as DIC).

Blue Water Vietnam Veterans previously denied Agent Orange-related benefits can contact NVLSP for assistance by email at bluewater2019@nvlsp.org or via phone through NVLSP's toll-free hotline: 855-333-0677.

Background

From 2005 to 2009, NVLSP litigated the Haas case, which challenged the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policy limiting the presumption of Agent Orange exposure to veterans who had "boots on the ground" or served on the inland waterways of **Vietnam**. Unfortunately, the Federal Circuit ruled by a vote of 2 to 1 in Haas that the term "service in the Republic of Vietnam" was ambiguous. Due to the ambiguity, the court allowed the VA's interpretation to stand. That interpretation has remained the governing policy for determining Agent Orange disability benefits for the last 10 years until the court overturned Haas with its Procopio decision. NVLSP filed an amicus curiae brief in the Procopio case.

About NVLSP

The National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) is an independent, nonprofit veterans service organization that has served active duty military personnel and veterans since 1981. NVLSP strives to ensure that our nation honors its commitment to its 22 million veterans and active duty personnel by ensuring they have the benefits they have earned through their service to our country. NVLSP has represented veterans in lawsuits that compelled enforcement of the law where the VA or other military services denied benefits to veterans in violation of the law. NVLSP's success in these lawsuits has resulted in more than \$5.2 billion dollars being awarded in disability, death, and medical benefits to hundreds of thousands of veterans and their survivors. NVLSP offers training for attorneys and other advocates; connects veterans and active duty personnel with pro bono legal help when seeking disability benefits; publishes the nation's definitive guide on veteran benefits; and represents and litigates for veterans and their families before the VA, military discharge review agencies, and federal courts. For more information go to www.nvlsp.org.

Here's what was left out of the poor explanation of the impact of H.R. 299:

This bill has younger veterans paying for the health care of older veterans.

The bill would:

- **Modify (Increase charges) to the home loan programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**
- **Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from changes to VA's home loan program (Increase charges) to veterans that apply for a GI Home Loan.**

IT IS A TRAGEDY THAT MOST OF THE MAJOR VETERANS ORGANIZATION'S WERE ON BOARD SUPPORTING HR:299 THE DEFUNCT BLUE WATER NAVY BILL AND INTENTIONALLY DID NOT MENTION THAT THE BILL WAS FUNDED BY EVERY NON-DISABLED VETERAN THAT APPLIED FOR A GI LOAN TO BE CHARGED AN ADDITIONAL \$2.79 A MONTH FOR THE LIFE OF THE LOAN TO PAY FOR THE BILL'S COSTS. IT IS AMAZING WHAT BIPARTISANSHIP & THE SELLING OUT OF VETERANS CAN ACHIEVE WHEN IT COMES TO VETERANS. IN OTHER WORDS, HR 299 HAS ESTABLISHED A NEW CRITERIA VETERANS PAYING FOR HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS SHAME UPON THEM ALL.

Congress pits VA mortgage costs against veterans' health care.

By Hannah Lang

Cremaains Project Report



Veterans' cremaains sat abandoned, then Shore vets stepped in

Jerry Carino
Asbury Park Press USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

In February 1978, Don Sutton died while walking in a snowstorm in Hazlet. The Korean War veteran was cremated, but his ashes remained on a shelf in a Middletown funeral home, unclaimed and unburied, for 40 years. That changed when a handful of enterprising Vietnam veterans came across his remains. They researched Sutton's past, contacted surviving family members and arranged for a military burial.

The group, which is based out of Vietnam Veterans of America's Chapter 12 in Allenhurst, has done this more than 70 times since 2011. Now their mission is being portrayed in a short documentary that will be screened at the Monmouth Film Festival Sunday at Two River Theater in Red Bank. Titled "Forgotten," the four-minute piece by Holmdel filmmaker Tom Phillips is the concise version of a longer documentary, based around Sutton's story, that is the pilot episode a planned series called "Unclaimed Remains."

Phillips had no idea such an issue existed. It came up while interviewing veterans for another project at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel. At first, he couldn't believe his ears. "I must have said the word, 'What?' about 20 times," Phillips said. "If a vet gets left in a box, what about the rest of us?" "We want no part of them" Sadly, Sutton's story is not uncommon. Ernie DiOrio and Rich Gough, who spearhead what they've come to call the Veterans Cremaains Project, estimate that there are thousands of Suttons across the country.

"Some of the stories we've uncovered are really sad," said Gough, a 74-yearold Manchester resident who served in the Air Force in the 1960s. "We research every individual, and it's sad to see some of the things they accomplished during their lifetime and then the culmination of everything is they're sitting on a shelf abandoned."

How does this happen? In some cases, like Sutton's, there is a miscommunication among loved ones over the status of the cremaains.

In others, a person tasked with executing a will fails to follow through. Sometimes, as DiOrio found out, the cremaains were intentionally left at the funeral home by family members who didn't care.

"All of a sudden they're get a phone call 30 years later from us saying, 'We found so-and-so on the shelf,' " said DiOrio, a 71-year-old Manalapan resident who served in Vietnam with the Army from 1967-68. "You get some people that say, 'We want no part of them. Keep them.' " The hardest part, Gough and DiOrio say, is gaining entry into funeral homes. Although it's legal to release unclaimed remains to veterans groups, project members have met with resistance from wary or overburdened funeral home directors.

"We know they're busy running a business; we're not asking for their time," Gough said. "We'll come in with a team of two or three guys and do an inventory of all their cremaains. Sometimes they don't even know who they have."

Project members have found small boxes of remains stacked on shelves, in basements, or even in sheds. All they need is a name — a Social Security number is a bonus — and the take it from there. If the cremaains are of a veteran, they arrange for the funeral and attempt to contact surviving family. They've expanded the project to include unclaimed spouses of veterans.

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The process takes about three months. Fellow Chapter 12 members Rich Magovern and Dan Higgins are part of the project team as well.

"You don't just do it overnight," DiOrio said. "You're making sure they're honorably discharged, getting death certificates, cremation certificates, lining up a military funeral with an honor guard. But it's rewarding."

Compelling stories

Many of their stories they uncover are compelling. A few examples:

□ A World War II glider pilot who fought in Europe flying a canvas plane without an engine. "We read his after-action report; he had to dodge obstacles, getting in and getting out," DiOrio said.

"He had no family members. We were able to find a glider pilot organization in Albany that is still active. They were able to come down and be at the funeral."

□ A woman in Ocean County whose husband was killed in action during World War II and was buried in Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York.

"None of her friends really knew her intentions, but when she passed she asked her attorney to take care of the estate, and he left her on a shelf for 25 to 30 years," Gough said. "When we found out, we made arrangements and delivered her to the national cemetery in Farmingdale to be buried with her husband."

□ At a Monmouth County funeral home, they came across the cremains of a woman whose husband was lost at sea during World War II.

"She wanted to be (scattered) at sea to be with her husband, but her ashes were never taken care of by her attorney," DiOrio said. "They've been there for 30 years, still sitting in the funeral parlor. We wanted to take care of that, and they (the funeral home officials) wouldn't give them (the ashes) up."

DiOrio declined to name the funeral home, but he and his project partners have embraced the documentary as a way of spreading word about their mission.

"It's very important that this information gets out to the public, to see if there are other organizations who might want to get involved," Gough said.

"Forgotten" airs at 11:45 a.m. Sunday, right before a 30-minute documentary by Phillips titled "Vietnam Aftermath." That one features in-depth interviews with four New Jersey Vietnam veterans about the challenges of coming home to a disapproving public and their battles with post-traumatic stress disorder.

After the screenings, Phillips and veterans featured in both documentaries will take the stage for a question and-answer session.

The Monmouth Film Festival runs Aug. 8-11. For more, including the full schedule of screenings and ticket information, visit www.monmouthfilmfestival.org.

Unclaimed Vets Are In Funeral Homes All Over The US, These Guys Want To Change That

In 2012, the Vietnam Veterans of America Jersey Shore Area Chapter 12 created a Cremains Project committee, a group that set out to return deceased fellow veterans to their loved ones. New Jersey based producer and filmmaker Tom Phillips caught wind of the Veterans Cremains Project.

“My dad served, he died young and never told me a thing. There was no closure for me,” he said.

Phillips previously released the short film *Vietnam Aftermath* featuring interviews with Garden State veterans sharing their experiences during and after the war. He’s promoting a television pilot based off of the Cremains Project titled *Unclaimed Remains*.

“All I heard them say was people are being left in boxes, veterans,” Phillips said. “I couldn’t help but thing ‘if you can leave a vet in a box, what about the rest of us.’ I was shocked, and that includes infants. I took it upon myself to hopefully bring more public awareness to the country because it has to stop.”

Those working on the project say roughly twenty percent of unclaimed cremains in funeral homes across the country are veterans.

“We first get involved with the funeral director,” said Chapter 12 first vice-president Ernie Diorio. “They tell us ‘I have X amount of cremains here. I don’t know who the veterans are but if you would like, come in and do the inventory of it.’”

The chairman of the Cremains Project believes the real difficulty in doing the work is gaining trust from the funeral homes.

“We just need to get to the funeral parlors and explain to them that we do all of the work,” said Rich Gough, Cremains Project chairman and Airforce vet that served from 1963 through the Vietnam War. “We do everything. The first time they see us is when we knock on their door and we’re there to do an inventory of their cremains. All we need is a name and their death date. We take it from there. Next time we see them is when we come to pick up those that are veterans, put them in the urns that we’ve made and have them buried.”

A grant from Home Depot supplies lumber, and partnerships with local businesses, has allowed Gough and his fellow vets at Shore Area Chapter 12 to create oak urns for cremains.



Rich Gough, Tom Phillips, Ernie Diorio

Unclaimed Vets Are In Funeral Homes All Over The US, These Guys Want To Change That (continued)

So that we now can take the temporary urn, which in some cases is just a cardboard box, and transfer them over to a decent urn,” Gough said. “We have a label that we place on that and have them buried in William C. Doyle Cemetery.”

The cemetery in Wrightstown is the first state-operated veterans’ burial ground in New Jersey. Gough says every veteran they discover gets a military funeral, even if no family members are found.

“It includes Taps, folding the flag, some prayers. That’s about it. It takes about twenty minutes,” he said.

Ernie Diorio with the Cremains Project says they’ve found roughly 70 veterans in funeral homes and returned 20 of them back to family members.

“Each box that we do has a story, each individual,” he said. “Richie goes above and beyond the call of duty. He just needs to go back to the next last of kin. But Richie goes further than that. Sometimes he goes looking for grandchildren. We just want to let them know that your grandparents, parents, that somebody is there.”

In the New Jersey Legislature, a bill has passed the state senate, and referred to the Assembly Military and Veterans’ Affairs Committee that would expand the Cremains Projects’ work beyond unclaimed vets.

“This would allow us to also take eligible dependents and spouses of qualified veterans. It would also change the law that allows us to be included in the list of [people that can get a free death certificate from the state,” Gough said.

To the vets on the Cremains Projects’ frustration, the bill is yet to reach a committee vote in the Assembly. *Unclaimed Remains* director Tom Phillips has expanded his outreach on the issue to other states and countries, where those communities say they too have an unknown number of veterans’ cremains sitting on shelves in funeral homes.

“It’s a world problem. It’s not limited to the US. The thing is, if twenty percent are veterans, what about the other eighty percent. It’s not a military issue, it’s a human issue,” Phillips said.

The goal they hope for is a day when there’s no military veteran left unclaimed in a box.



1st Annual Belmar **VETERANS BEACH BASH** *& Military Appreciation Day*

Presented By:

Colton & Friends | Bridging The Gap For Veterans

SEPTEMBER

7th 2019

9AM - 4PM

7th AVENUE | BELMAR, NJ

Join us for the First Annual Veterans Beach Bash in support of our NJ military families. Enjoy a day at the beach including live DJ and bands, your favorite food, tug of war & volleyball competitions, kids activities & more!

Free to all Military Veterans and families.

Registration Required

Free Tee Shirt



For Registration visit <http://veteransbeachbash.eventbrite.com/>

Play “HOOK-e” From PTSD

By Greg Kucharewski

NEW-SMALL GROUP SURF FISHING INSTRUCTION

Any veteran that is struggling with PTSD that is new to “Play HOOK-e” Take a Veteran Fishing is eligible to sign up for our new one-on-one or small group surf fishing instruction on the beach. Bring your own equipment or use our Play HOOK-e loaner rods and reels. Register early and we will try to accommodate time slots and dates. Members from various saltwater fishing clubs have volunteered to assist our veterans. To register phone: 732-785-9278

CRABBING AT THE JERSEY SHORE AND MILITIA MUSEUM TOUR



Our Play HOOK-e program began with a presentation by Ann Carreiro, of Quilts of Valor/Rebeca's Reel Quilters. Ann presented a Quilt of Valor to Donald Davison, and John Bello, both retired US Army, Veterans. They each received a Quilt of Valor in honor of their military service. Visit VVA Chapter 12 website for more pictures.

<http://www.vvachapter12.net/>

Twenty-four Veterans and family members attended the Museum tour and Crabbing Workshop hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Shore Area Chapter 12 and Sea Girt Army National Guard Training Center Militia Museum. The goal was to connect veterans to the outdoors and help veteran men and women take time to heal by utilizing healthy outdoor activities, such as fishing, boating and crabbing. Topics included: Museum Tour, New Style Crab Traps – Access Locations –Crabbing – and NJ Rules and Regulations.

Catherine K shared three of her delicious recipes for crab dinners. Our door prize winners won fishing trips on the Norma K III and items that were purchased at Gabriel's Tackle Co., The Fisherman Magazine, The Reel Seat, Brielle Bait and Tackle, Gates Bait and Tackle, Castaways Bait & Tackle, Jersey Hooker Outfitters, and Pell's Fish & Sport.

We thank Chief Guy Remig, Director, National Guard Militia Museum and Sgt. Andrew Walker, Curator for providing space for our program. For information about the museum and Veteran Oral Histories, please contact Carol Fowler, Assistant Curator, 732-974-5966. Much thanks to Tim Burden and everyone that helped with set up and packing up.

Pictures from Recent Fishing Events



Riverside Park Fluke Fishing



Riverside Park Fluke Fishing



2nd Annual NB&FCC Veteran Mi-Jo Trip



Newark Bait & Fly Casting Club August Mi-JoTrip

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

USS BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY KIDS FISHING

I spoke to Thomas Polino, Sergeant Major US Army Retired and who is also a member of our Play HOOK-e group that informed me the Central Jersey Code Official Association along with the International Code Council will host an event on Thursday, September 12, 2019. This will tie in with the NJ "Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs" program to bring awareness about the Opioids Epidemic in this country. The event will take place on the USS Battleship New Jersey in Camden New Jersey and children attending will be allowed to fish off the battleship that night. Please Contact: Thomas at: 856 906 7167. John White, US Navy Veteran and promoter stated "let's keep our kids off the streets and involved in programs like this one."

[Read More>>](#)

TEA AND TARGET DAY FOR WOMEN VETERANS

In support of Women Veterans struggling with PTSD we are planning a Tea & Targets Day for women veterans. Pastor Lisa, Great Commission Church of the Nazarene, MD will host a Tea and Target Day for women veterans. All activities will take place at the Pastors' family farm in Colora, Maryland at 10:30 am on Sunday, October 13, 2019. Veteran women will enjoy a country lunch/tea, receive gifts, see farm animals, toss bean bag targets & lawn darts, pitch cast for back yard bass and shoot low impact BB guns at targets. We are in the process of finalizing all the activities transportation. A few women will fly from Monmouth Jet Center and others will join us from Aberdeen, MD. This is a no cost event for our veteran women.

3rd Annual Fishing Event for Special Needs Children

When we announced Mr. Vito Cardinale was going to host a 3rd Annual "Kids Wish'n to go Fish'n" Outdoor Fun Day on Saturday, September 28, 2019 veterans contacted us, asking if they could help the children. What a concept disabled veterans

helping disabled and special needs children. Mr. Vito Cardinale, Cardinale Enterprises LCC, and owner of Lake Julianna, Ponderosa Estate Farm stated; "I am very excited to host this worthwhile event for special needs children again. Children are welcome to enjoy a day at the water's edge with fun outdoor activities at the farm. Volunteers are available to assist children fish, most of them are veterans that have fished at Lake Julianna, during early spring. It's amazing how veterans gather together to make a fishing program a success and give back to help others in need." To register your group and receive directions for this free event, please phone Danielle @ 732-747-7846 or email: Info@cardinaleenterprises.com

**3rd ANNUAL FISHING EVENT FOR
SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2019
10:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M.**

BBQ Lunch

Door Prizes

KID'S WISH'N

FREE RIGS & BAIT

Loaner Rod & Reels



TO GO FISH'N

LOCATION LAKE JULIANNA

PONDEROSA ESTATES FARM, MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP, NJ

YOUNGSTERS 6 TO 16 YEARS OLD

Register Your Group Now: 732-747-7846

Email: Info@cardinaleenterprises.com

Sponsored by:



**FLY TO MARYLAND TEA AND TARGETS DAY
FOR WOMEN VETERANS ONLY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019**

Play HOOK-e at LZ-64.com



FOR DETAILS PHONE OR EMAIL

PHONE GREG AT: 732-785-9278

Email: gkucharews@jcaa.org

Sponsored by: Great Commission Church
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12
and LZ 64.ORG

Recreational therapy has helped veterans cope with PTSD/TBI

1. We have some refurbished rod and reel donations that we are making available to our Play HOOK-e from PTSD program. We thank everyone that made donations of rods/reels and tackle. If you need a rod and reel let us know and we will do our best to get the equipment to you. 2. Norma K III has helped us out again and provided party boat fishing passes for door prizes. The mates do a great job of helping to land and clean fish. Don't forget to tip the mate when fishing aboard their vessel. 3. During July we presented the VVA Chapter 12 "Play HOOK-e" program to the Marine Core League Detachment 796 and Monmouth & Ocean County All-Star Baseball, we thank them for their support. 4. Many VVA 12 members helping youngsters learn to fish....LT has volunteered for the Valerie Foundation for years. I can't wait to speak to him at our September meeting.

Military Times

Millions more will soon be allowed to shop on military bases. But some veterans wonder how they'll get access.



As defense officials get ready for [3 million more people](#) who will be able to shop at military stores on base, some veterans are wondering whether they'll be able to use their new benefits.

Some veterans have contacted Military Times to say that they are eligible for the new benefit that takes effect Jan. 1, but are concerned they won't have access to the stores. That's because they don't have the specific credential required – the Veteran Health Identification Card, or VHIC, issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Based on responses to Military Times queries, there are no answers yet for these veterans. Information was not immediately available about how many veterans could be affected.

Under a 2018 law, Purple Heart recipients; former prisoners of war; veterans with a service-connected disability from 0 to 90 percent as documented by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and certain primary veteran caregivers will be newly eligible to shop at [commissaries and exchanges](#). It applies to all military bases, including Coast Guard.

Medal of Honor recipients and veterans with a VA-documented service-connected disability rating of 100 percent and their authorized family members have long been authorized these privileges, under DoD policy.

This newly eligible population will also be able to use certain morale, welfare and recreational, or MWR, facilities such as golf courses, movie theaters, clubs and certain other programs and facilities that are self-sufficient, generating enough revenue through fees and/or sales to pay their operating costs.

The departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense and Homeland Security have been working together for months on plans for how the program will be implemented. A crucial part of that is the credential required to get onto the base and to shop at the stores, because most veterans who aren't retired don't have access to installations.

Military Times

Some other questions from readers:

Q. How do I apply for the VHIC credential?

A. The VHIC is issued only to veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system, according to the VA website. You can complete an application by telephone by calling 877-222-8387, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern. You can also apply for VA health care benefits online at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll, or in person at your local VA medical facility.

Q. Are spouses and other family members of the newly eligible veterans and caregivers able to shop and use the MWR facilities?

A. No. Family members of these eligible veterans and caregivers who aren't eligible for privileges in their own right are not authorized to shop, according to DoD, and the law.

Q. What if I don't live near a military base, with its commissaries, exchanges and MWR facilities?

A. One option is that all honorably discharged veterans can shop online at military exchanges. Second, there may be some extra opportunities in certain areas for commissary shopping where there isn't a nearby commissary. DoD spokeswoman Maxwell confirms that the newly eligible veterans and caregivers of veterans will be authorized to shop at the Defense Commissary Agency's on-site Guard and Reserve sales. The commissary agency periodically holds these on-site sales at Guard and Reserve units around the country. This program allows Guard and Reserve members and other authorized customers who aren't close to a commissary to order items and have them delivered to that location during the specific scheduled sale date.

Q. Where do I get information on locations of exchanges?

Those are the Army and Air Force Exchange Service stores, www.shopmyexchange.com and click "Find a store"; [Coast Guard Exchange](#) stores, ; [Marine Corps Exchange](#) stores, and [Navy Exchange](#) stores, <https://www.mynavyexchange.com/storelocator/storesearch.jsp>. Authorized shoppers can shop at any of these stores — or will be able to Jan. 1 — regardless of which branch of service they are or were affiliated with.

National Convention



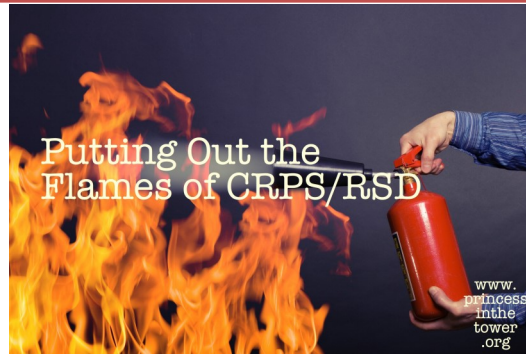
New Jersey delegates for National Convention



After a hard day at the National Convention. before catching plane home



Richie Too pooped to pop . Needed a little help.



FLAME OUT WALK

FLAME OUT WALK – EXTINGUISH RSD/CRPS

As many of you are aware, our daughter, Judy, has an insidious disease known as Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy. It is a neuropathic nerve disease affecting her whole body, including internal organs. She experiences daily, sometimes disabling pain.

There is an organization that we have supported for many years, the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association (RSDSA). They provide education, advocacy, support, and research funding, in hopes of finding a cure for this disease.

On Sunday, September 22, 2019, we are holding the 1st Annual FLAME OUT WALK TO EXTINGUISH RSD/CRPS. This year we will remember Erynn Carroll, who passed away from complications of this disease.

The walk will take place at Joe Palaia Park in Oakhurst (Ocean Township) N.J. For details go to RSDS.ORG and scroll down to Upcoming Events. Go to the September 22 event and hit the Register Now button. It will take you to our First Giving page and you can sign up and/or donate.

If you prefer to simply send a check, make the check out to RSDSA and send it to VVA Chapter 12, PO Box 276, Allenhurst, N.J. 07711. We will have them recorded and sent to the RSDSA home office for inclusion in the fundraising goal. If you have any questions, contact Linda or I at 732-531-2574 or email us at herc3000@aol.com.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 12, has signed on as a sponsor. If you wish to also sponsor the event, please contact us. Hope to see as many people at the walk as possible.

On behalf of the Hopkins family we want to thank all of you for your past support of Judy. When times seemed bleakest, you have been there for us. We truly value each and every one of you. May God bless and keep all of you. Bob & Linda

VVA Chapter 12 Happenings



**Monmouth Film Festival "Vietnam Aftermath"
Chapter 12 members at Monmouth Film Festival**

Vietnam Veterans Chapter 12 winner of short story for their video ' Forgotten Veterans ' at Jersey Shore Film Festival



PTSD Research Quarterly VOLUME 30/NO. 2, 2019

The latest issue of the *PTSD Research Quarterly* is now available:

[PTSD and TBI Comorbidity](#)

Jasmeet P. Hayes, PhD

Brain injury, has often been a concern in PTSD patients, most notably from shell shock to TBI during WW I and OEF/OIF/OND, respectively, but also from domestic violence and motor vehicle accidents. This issue of the Research Quarterly provides a comprehensive and thoughtful guide to the literature on PTSD and comorbid mild TBI.

Sign up for the [PTSD Monthly Update](#) or [other publications](#) from the **National Center for PTSD**.

ARE YOU TREATING U.S. VETERANS WITH PTSD?

WE CAN HELP.



Our [PTSD Consultation Program](#) can answer questions about assessment, treatment, medications, and more: PTSDconsult@va.gov or 866-948-7880.

Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Veterans Service Council

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

This certificate is awarded to

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12



In recognition of your appointment to the Veterans Service Council of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office as representative of the local Veteran Community, charged with advising the Monmouth County Sheriff on programs and support services which enhance the quality of life for veterans and citizens of Monmouth County



Shawn Golden

Shawn Golden, Sheriff



I hope all my brothers and sisters are all well and are enjoying the summer, the guitar classes have been going well, we have 10 Vets in the class and they are doing good . We still have one guitar left for a Vet who would like to join the class, for info contact Dennis Champ 723-239-6288 or email me at dsclnc1953@gmail.com.

The Vet band has been very busy this summer, some of the gigs we played were Lakehurst joint base, Earle Naval base, Honor Night at Lakehurst, just to name a few , we will also be playing at the Lakewood Vet center picnic , hope to see you all there. Enjoy the rest of the summer, take care and be will. Keep on pickin.

Dennis Champ

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.

ARE YOU HAVING AN ACTIVITY IN THE PTSD UNIT ?

BOTTLED WATER, SODA, PAPER PLATES, 16 OZ. PLASTIC CUPS

AND

PLASTIC UTENSILS ARE NEEDED

TAPS

Shore Area Vietnam Vets Called Home By The Lord

JAMES JIM WALLING SMOCK NAVY

HENRY SCHULTZ ARMY

RICHARD TALLMAN ARMY

Basil s WOLFE ARMY

CHARLES C. EARLEY, JR ARMY

RICHARD C BOYLE ARMY

EDWARD M. SILVA ARMY

LAURENCE RICHARD MULDOON ARMY

MICHAEL J. NORRIS SR. ARMY

MARK HOWARD PIEKLIC ARMY

HARRYB.BALDWIN JR ARMY

PAUL ROURKE SR. ARMY

JOSEPH F AIELLO ARMY

JOHN H. McGARY ARMY

PETER VOGAN JOHNS ARMY

JAMES DOC BRANIGAN NAVY

ANDREW W. FREVERT JR NAVY

JOHN R. COLSON NAVY

CHARLES R. EWALD NAVY

RICHARD B. BARR NAVY

RICHARD GEORGE HOLST NAVY

JOHN T. DEVLIN NAVY

ROBERT S. BORKOWSKI SR NAVY

ROBERT N. MARTIN MARINES

WILBERT S. WHEELER III MARINES

RALPH H. CORWIN JR. MARINES

MARK R SCHREMMER MARINES

WILLIAM J. MOSS MARINES

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