



Volume 15 • Issue 2

VVA Chapter 12 ♦ Newsletter

February 2016



“I’M LEAVIN ON A JET PLANE.....”

**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.’



"Five years ago, this month, I lost one of my closest and dearest friends. I think of him often. He was a founding member of Chapter 12 and quite a character. I've asked Rob to reprint his eulogy, in his memory."

{ I had as many tears in my eyes as I put this in here, as I did at the church where I listened to it. RIP
Brother, Rob }

JIM MONAHAN EULOGY
BY BOB HOPKINS
February 14, 2011

Jim Monahan was a curmudgeon, irascible at times, impish at others, only in the way that those of Irish heritage can be. He broached no fools, stood by his principles, and you always knew where you stood with him.

He was also empathetic, caring, spiritual in the true sense of the word, loyal, and deeply in love with Maureen and Jimmy. There was an essence of humanity in him that understood his role in life, his relationship with others, and that God's plan was paramount.

Jim loved the Jets, his truck, racing, fishing (where he was given the nickname Big Tuna), and playing baseball, where he was often ground ball challenged and had the unique ability to stretch a triple into a double!

All of these interests took second place, however, to his two greatest loves, his family and veterans, especially Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 12.

I met Jim in 1981, as Chapter 12 was forming. Vietnam veterans, at that time, had not yet been recognized by the general public for their service or what they had gone through for this country. He joined to play baseball, knowing that the Chapter would be forming a team. He stayed because he cared about those he would come to call his brothers. He never asked anything for himself, helped any vet he saw in need, financially or emotionally, and chastised those who had their own agenda. "It's about the vet" he told me early on and he never wavered in that belief. He wanted no recognition for himself and I know personally what he did privately to help his brothers. I am convinced that there are men alive today because of Jim's intervention at critical points in their recovery from Nam.

Jim and I had a friendship that thrived on insults, jibes, and poking fun at each others foibles. When he was seriously ill many years ago, he asked me if I would do his eulogy if he didn't make it. I said "no" and he asked me why not. I told him I was busy that day! When the Chapter honored me several years ago for my service to VVA, they asked Jim to say a few words about me, since he had known me longer than anyone else in the room. He took the microphone and said, "Hopkins, I never liked you, I still don't like you, and I never will like you" and proceeded to sit down! I

considered that the sincerest form of flattery, because I knew that the man truly cared for me and that our friendship was rooted in deep mutual respect.

Jim loved his wife and son and we shared stories of humor, heartbreak, concerns, and successes that were common ground in both our families. He allowed me into his world and became part of my family. He developed a deep love for my daughter, heightened even more during her darkest moments, as she battled the ravages of a neuropathic disease. He gave her his most prized possession, his Chapel of The Four Chaplins pin when she went to Germany for treatment. An attached note read "Hopkins, We will be there with you as always with our love. Maureen, Jim, and Monahan." On the 18th day of my daughter's coma, at a time when I did not know if I would ever hold her again, I held that pin in my hand as I prayed and the following morning my daughter emerged from her coma.

We all have stories about Jim. One, however, that many of you know nothing about occurred when he was serving in Vietnam. At dusk one night several grunts were trapped on a beach, the enemy nearby. At risk to himself and his crew, Jim piloted his craft onto the beach at the last moment to rescue them. He received no citation or medal and I don't know who really knew about this incidence of heroism. I never heard Jim talk about it until, at his wedding anniversary party several years ago, two of those men showed up to thank him.

Many of you here today have Jim Monahan stories that have been told, enhanced, and taken on lives of their own. All emanate from the character of a man we grew to know and love, a man we called a brother. It is a testament to him that we revel in the telling of these tales, from the Maryland fishing trips, to the Blueclaws games, the VVA picnics, and the parades.

Last Tuesday, Big Tuna Monahan, on the date of his late father's birthday, passed over the bridge that connects this world with the next and his spirit reunited with his maker, his journey complete. He is experiencing sounds so pure that the heart leaps with unbounded joy, aromas so intense that the senses overflow with the sweet essence of eternal love, and colors beyond the imagination with hues and shades that overwhelm anything ever experienced in this life. He basks in the eternal radiance and warmth of a God so loving that Jim will never again feel pain, loss, fear or want. That essence of pure love and joy is flowing into this church, at this very moment, as Jim's spirit lives in each and every one of you. Allow it in, live it, become it and your life will be enriched, your spirit lifted.

To Maureen, Jimmy, and the Monahan family I offer the condolences of all here. May God keep you in the palm of his hand, filling you with a sense of hope and peace, at a time of loss and sorrow. Jim lives in each of you, his love never-ending.

God permitted each of us who knew Jim a moment in time to cherish and savor, a brief glimpse into the spirit of a man who cared deeply for each and every one of us.

I am eternally grateful to have met him and to call him a friend and brother.

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
Don Davison	2 nd Vice President	732-988-4056	soulpony@aol.com
Tony Corbella	Secretary	732-272-8770	paddybella@optonline.net
Richard Brandon	Treasurer	518-966-8347	richbrandon1952@yahoo.com

COMMITTEES

Bob Lopez	Minority Affairs	732-988-9241	seabees7@verizon.net
Charles Wuth	PTSD	732-241-1846	cwuth@verizon.net
John Rahill	Transportation, Cremains	732-495-2593	gladnan@juno.com
Don Davison	School Speakers Program	732-988-4056	soulpony@aol.com
Tom Milmo	Agent Orange	732-859-8783	milmo7@aol.com
Ernie Diorio	School Speaker Program	732-245-5552	litetrop67@aol.com
Bob Hopkins	Membership, Grievance	732-531-2574	herc3000@aol.com
	Chaplain		
Bucky Grimm	POW/MIA	732-222-9376	wheat1111@comcast.net
Rich Gough	Product Sales, Cremains	732-539-0206	rpg3706@aol.com
	Public Affairs		
Rich Magovern	Cremains, Community	732-842-2950	richandnema@verizon.net
—	Affairs		
Michael Quilty	Homeless Vets, Car	732-939-8938	quiltym@gmail.com
—	Show		
Ernie Diorio	Finance, Fund Raising	732-245-5552	litetrop67@aol.com
Joe McCreary	Veterans' Health Care	732-228-7852	joecmbg@yahoo.com
Dan Higgins	Cremains, Product Sales	732-581-9715	danielhiggins123@coccast.net

STATE COUNCIL DELEGATES

Michael Berman, Delegate
Paul Bausch, Delegate
Tony Ponzo, Delegate

Mike Quilty, Alternate Delegate
Dan Higgins, Alternate Delegate

OTHER CONTACTS

Margaret Wojciechowicz VVA National Service Officer 973-297-3227
margaret.wojciechowicz@va.gov

Bob Parrella AVVA Liaison 732-303-1689 bobpark4@aol.com

Rob Ford BITW Editor & Web Master 732-687-3846 nlvva12@gmail.com

President's Message

At last night's meeting, Lt reported that our Chapter membership is at an all time high of 365! I can recall when we were only 133 members in 1993. Keep up the good work.

It was reported by Sparkie that we already have three School Speakers Programs scheduled for April: Middletown High School South April 5, Middletown High School North April 12, and Manalapan High School on March 23. If anyone wishes to attend, please call Don Davison 732-859-4640, or Ernie at 732-245-5552. We are limited in the number of veterans that we can bring in to a school. If you have any artifacts from the Nam and would like to donate to the committee, let them know.

Congratulation to Brother Pat Lipka! On January 31 at VFW2179 he was inducted into the Chapel of the Four Chaplains for is work in his community.

With March around the corner, it is Saint Patrick Day, and that means it is time to show our Vietnam Veterans Colors at the Belmar Parade, March 6 and Rumson on March 13. Uniforms are not needed to march. For Belmar we meet at the Blue Diner {Princess Maria} on Rt35 in Wall at 10am for breakfast or at line up at noon in Belmar. For the Rumson Parade, we meet at 11am at Barnacle Bills on 1st.

It is that time of the year! We are counting on everyone to help in sell selling Ads for our annual Dinner Dance Ad Journal. This year, the event is scheduled for May 7 {This is Vietnam Veterans Remembrances Day}. This is our only source of income. Last year we were able to sell a hundred and ten full page Ads. I know that we will pass that with all your help, even if you yourself take out an Ad yourself !

Last week I committed to the State Council to join in partnership with our brother Chapter 721 in running a Town Hall Meeting on Agent Orange and other topics on May 15 , 2016 at VFW 2179, 1 Veterans Lane, Port Monmouth.

The Colonel

Brother Pat Lipka, The Chapel of the Four Chaplains





UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

The next Chapter meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb 3, 2016, at 7:30PM. Location is at VFW 2226, 210 Norwood Ave., Oakhurst, NJ.

2/16 Affairs Claims Clinic

4/6 Chapter Elections

5/7 Installation Dinner & Dance

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

2/16 Bucky Grimm

2/25 Nick Bellantoni

2/11 Bucky Grimm, Anniversary

Anyone born in February ?? Please let me know so I can put it here!!

Welcome New Members

Daniel Dawdy

Timothy Nogueira

Arnold Frankel

Paul Knowles

Congratulations to the Chapter, **365 Members!!!!**

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

ELECTION NOTICE

As required by the Constitution and By Laws of Vietnam Veterans of America, The New Jersey State Council, and VVA Chapter 12, this is notice that the Annual Election of Officers, Board of Directors, Nominations Committee, and State Council Representatives will take place at the Annual Meeting of Chapter 12 on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, which meeting will commence at 7:30 PM.

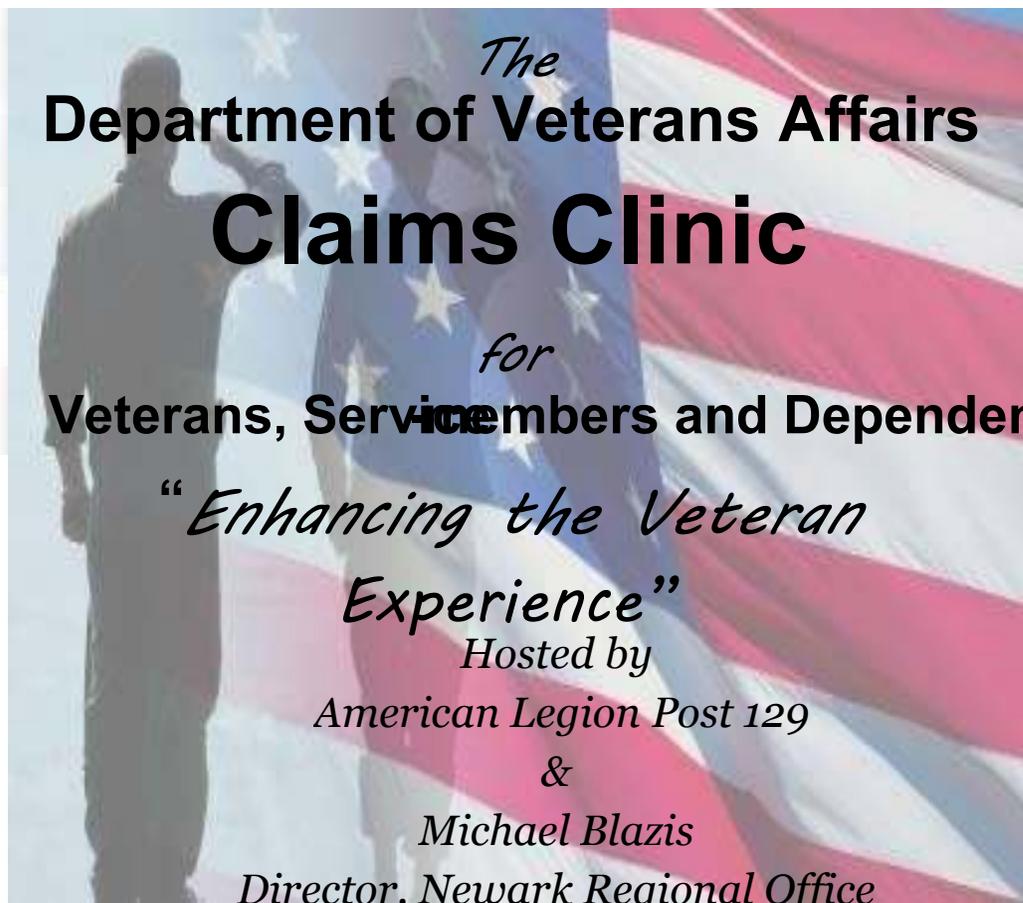
The Offices of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are for a term of one (1) year. The open positions, five (5) in number, for Board of Directors, are for a term of two (2) years. There are three (3) open positions for the Nominations Committee, which are for one (1) year terms. There are three (3) positions open for Delegate and two (2) for Alternate Delegate to represent the Chapter on the New Jersey State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America. The three highest vote getters will be the Delegates, with the remaining two being the Alternates.

Any member in Good Standing (membership dues paid to date), with a DD214 or other proof of eligibility on file with the Chapter, may run for any office. Simply notify the Nominating Committee, in writing, of your desire to run, or contact one of the Nominating Committee members listed below. Nominations and notifications of a desire to seek a specific office are open up to the recitation of the Nominating Committee final report on the night of the elections (April 6, 2016).

Bob Hopkins
Nomination Committee Chair
January 21, 2016

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Bob Hopkins	(732) 531-2574	herc3000@aol.com
Jay Vaughn	(732) 922-0304	jv4910@gmail.com
Rich Gough	(732) 539-0206	rpg3706@aol.com



The
Department of Veterans Affairs
Claims Clinic

for
Veterans, Service members and Dependents

*“Enhancing the Veteran
Experience”*

*Hosted by
American Legion Post 129*

*&
Michael Blazis*

Director, Newark Regional Office

WHERE: George P. Vanderveer
American Legion Post 129
2025 Church Road
Toms River NJ 08753

WHEN: Friday, February 26, 2016/10AM – 2PM

Who should come? Veteran, Service-members and dependents of who are interested and eligible to receive VA benefits and entitlements

****This is a great opportunity to get information about VA benefits and entitlements, submit a claim for benefits or receive information about the status of your pending VA claim****

This event is open to the public

For more information contact Jennifer Myers at 973-297-3384



The project for "The Olde Cemetery" in Ware Town was a dream of Bill Rott. Bill's request for material was passed on to Mark Saltarelli at the Home Depot for consideration. The request for this project was approved and coordinated with the Forked River Home Depot. The day of the project, there were 70 store managers at the site. They came from as far north as South Plainfield down to Cape May. The Home Depot came in force with volunteers, tools and material to install the needed 1,700 lineal feet of split rail fence themselves. The volunteers were determined to install the entire fence in one day and they did. The town of Ware Town and Bill Rott had food and drinks for the volunteers. This is just another example of what The Home Depot is doing with the Veterans of New Jersey and Chapter 12.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2016

No. 16-1

Contact:

Mokie Porter

[301-585-4000](tel:301-585-4000), Ext. 146

Defense Dept. Agrees to Quarterly Disclosure of PTSD Records *VVA, NVCLR Settle FOIA Suit Over “Bad Paper” Discharges*

(Wash., D.C.) Last week, the U.S. District Court in Connecticut approved a settlement in Vietnam Veterans of America et al v. Dept. of Defense et al., a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought by the National Veterans Council for Legal Redress and Vietnam Veterans America against the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). The veterans groups sought records regarding implementation of a September 2014 directive by then-Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel requiring that military record correction boards give “liberal consideration” to applications by veterans with PTSD who had received an other-than-honorable or other bad discharge and later seek to have their discharge status upgraded. Under the settlement, DOD agreed to release statistics on a quarterly basis for the next two years concerning PTSD applications and adjudications by each board and each service branch.

“Vietnam Veterans of America has long held that thousands of Vietnam veterans suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder were wrongfully discharged with bad paper,” said John Rowan, VVA National President. “The overwhelming majority of them were not malingerers. They were not cowards. They served honorably and well and did what was asked of them. But they were suffering from what is now known as PTSD at a time when PTSD was not an accepted mental health diagnosis. This settlement will help veterans and the public ensure that the record correction boards faithfully implement Secretary Hagel’s instruction and enable many of these veterans to get a modicum of the justice denied them for so long.”

“Nearly two years ago, NVCLR and my brother Conley Monk helped bring a class-action lawsuit against the Department of Defense to hold its record correction boards accountable,” said Garry Monk, Executive Director for the National Veterans Council for Legal Redress. “For decades, these boards denied upgrades to veterans with less than honorable discharges when these men and women had service-related PTSD. We welcomed the Hagel Memo and believe this settlement will allow the public to monitor the military’s compliance with its command. We now need the Department of Defense to make a serious and coordinated effort to reach out to veterans to make sure our troops know where they can find help to apply for an upgrade and remove the lifelong stigma of a bad paper discharge.”

“The court order approving this settlement requires DOD to disclose, on a quarterly basis and for the next two years, the number of PTSD applications received by each Army, Navy, and Air Force record correction or discharge review board, as well as the number of applications approved and denied and their docket numbers,” said Prof. Michael J. Wishnie, Director of the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School, which represented the plaintiffs in the suit.

“For the first time, this will allow veterans, their advocates, and the public to know whether DOD is fulfilling its twin obligations under the Hagel Memo to conduct a vigorous campaign of outreach to eligible veterans and to give ‘liberal consideration’ to the discharge upgrade applications the boards actually receive.”

The Hagel Memo is available here. “Unfinished Business: Correcting ‘Bad Paper’ for Veterans with PTSD,” a November 2015 report that analyzes information previously released as a result of this lawsuit and which was prepared for VVA and NVCLR by Sundiata Sidibe and Francisco Unger of the Veterans Legal Services Clinic, is available here.

Vietnam Veterans of America is the nation’s only congressionally chartered veterans’ service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA’s founding principle is “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”

From The VA Secretary

Veterans Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald told lawmakers on Thursday that by the end of 2016 [veterans](#) who walk into or call a VA medical center will have their clinical needs addressed "that day," while 90 percent of veterans appealing a compensation decision will -- with Congress' help -- get an answer within one year.

The ambitious commitments were two of a dozen "breakthrough priorities" that McDonald detailed for the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

Eight of the priorities are specific to serving veterans and four are to meet department needs, but McDonald said Senators should "make no mistake -- all 12 are designed to improve the delivery of timely care and benefits to veterans We understand this will be a challenge, but we are committed to producing results for veterans."

The priorities also include:

- Having all VA medical centers fully staffed up front with knowledgeable service-oriented employees.
- Making sure vets needing to see a community provider do so within 30 days at least 85 percent of the time.
- A disability claims backlog no more than 10 percent of inventory.
- A more intuitive and efficient website for accessing information.
- A well-staffed and courteous crisis hotline reachable by all veterans 24/7.
- A more efficient and understandable compensation and pension exam process.
- Continued progress in ending chronic veteran homelessness.
- Ensuring all VA employees are trained to high customer-service standards.
- Having 95 percent of all medical center directorships filled.
- Closing 100 percent of current cybersecurity weaknesses.
- Ensuring that half of all information technology projects are on time and on budget, with IT executives' performance goals tied to strategy goals.
- A more efficient medical-supply chain that will result in \$150 million in cost avoidances redirected to veteran programs.

One of the hurdles McDonald will face is in taming the growing backlog of appeals claims, which in some cases have dragged on for eight years as veterans continue to add evidence to their case.

The process has been complicated as well in recent years as a result of VA working to reduce its first-time disability claims backlog. McDonald reported that the claims backlog -- those not acted on within 125 days of filing -- has been reduced from its 2013 peak of 611,000 to 82,000.

The progress was made over several years in part because the VA put additional personnel on the problem and then by moving from the traditional paper-based system to one an entirely electronic one.

"We decided 1.4 million disability compensation and pension claims for Veterans and survivors -- the highest in VA history for a single year" because of the new system, McDonald said.

But Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Connecticut, said the emphasis on first-time claims only increased the number of appeals and "simply shifted the problem."

"And so the 440,000 appeals that currently are pending is, in my view, unacceptable," Blumenthal said.

McDonald did not dispute the issue, but pointed out that taming the appeals backlog is "one of our breakthrough objectives."

"Assuming we can work together on the legislation, we are planning to get 90 percent of appeals resolved within one year. And I think we can all sign up for that objective," McDonald said.

Under current law veterans may continue to add evidence to their file, which helps to draw out the decision time.

McDonald said the law was developed some 100 years ago and needs to be changed.

He did not spell out how he would change it but said he wants to work with Congress to come up with a solution

From: Paul Sutton

Date: Jan 30, 2016 3:40:54 PM

Subject: February 2016: the VAMC Will be using the US Treasury for Debt Collection of Medical Co-pays

Courtesy of Colonel Dan.....

Note: The bad part is many of these veterans have a claim pending for % service connection...after making co-pays for years, they finally get their claim approved and no longer have co-pays.....now try to get your past co-pay \$\$ back.....

February 2016 the VAMC will be using the US Treasury for debt collection of medical co-pays. Veterans will have 120 days to try to resolve the debt with the VAMC whether it is by payment, payment plan, request for waiver, etc. After that 120 days it will be sent to the US Treasury and then there will be no negotiating - period. It was explained to us the US Treasury will garnish Social Security benefits, tax refunds, or whatever to recoup the debt. There will also be interest involved to the tune of 28% to 30%.

This is for all co-payment debt for February 2016 going forward. No past debt balances. If you have a veteran with co-payment issues/debt, explain that it is in their best interests to try and resolve the matter before the 120 days.

Mark A. Stever

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Building 61 • Room 109

5500 E. Kellogg

Wichita, KS 67218

[316-688-](tel:316-688-)

Phila. VA chief is reinstated

Judge rules that while Diana Rubens showed poor judgment, her demotion and pay cut were excessive.

By Tricia L. Nadolny STAFF WRITER



Diana Rubens, director of the Phila. VA benefits office, contended that she had unfairly been made a scapegoat. CHARLES FOX / File Photograph

A judge on Monday reinstated the ousted director of the Philadelphia Department of Veterans Affairs benefits office, the latest turn in what has been nearly constant scrutiny of the beleaguered office.

In a 59-page decision, William L. Boulden, a judge of the Merit Systems Protection Board, said he agreed with VA officials that Diana Rubens showed poor judgment two years ago by helping facilitate the reassignment of her predecessor and then taking his job. But Boulden said the demotion and pay cut ordered by Rubens' bosses at the VA was excessive, noting that the agency failed to punish another official involved in the transfer.

"I find that there is a significant problem created by the inconsistent treatment of a comparable employee, and that this makes the penalty unreasonable under the circumstances," he wrote.

Boulden, whose board hears government employee appeals, did not absolve Rubens of wrongdoing, but said the law did not give him the option of imposing a lesser punishment. He ordered the agency to cancel its attempts to reassign and demote Rubens within 20 days, and give her back pay, interest, and benefits.

A VA spokesman did not respond when asked Monday when Rubens would resume her job. Rubens and her attorney also did not respond to a request for comment.

The ruling was a major victory for Rubens, who has been repeatedly assailed by critics in Congress and veterans' advocacy groups. It follows a two-day hearing last week in which she spoke publicly for the first time in months, contending that she had unfairly been made a scapegoat for the agency's larger problems.

Her punishment stemmed from her 2014 transfer from a senior post in Washington to the director's job in Philadelphia, which officials said came after she helped coordinate the reassignment of the previous director. Officials said Rubens wanted the Philadelphia position, which came with the same \$181,000 salary but less responsibility, because it would let her be closer to family in Delaware.

After the government spent \$274,000 to relocate her from Virginia to Havertown, Rubens and her transfer drew intense scrutiny from the agency's inspector general and members of Congress.

In defiant and at times tearful testimony last week, Rubens told the judge she had been a victim of political attacks orchestrated by House Republicans intent on vilifying the VA and its leaders. She said her involvement in the transfer of the former Philadelphia director was administrative at best.

During their own testimony, VA officials generally praised Rubens' performance in the Philadelphia office, which serves 825,000 veterans across several states and had been deemed one of their most flawed.

In deciding to demote Rubens, transfer her to Houston, and cut her salary by nearly a third, VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson said Rubens had created the appearance of a conflict of interest by not recusing herself in her predecessor's transfer. He called it a lapse in judgment.

The judge's opinion largely recounted the case and the legality of the punishment.

He agreed that there was nothing unlawful about Rubens' reassignment and that "most of the clouds hanging" over the move to Philadelphia "faded away like a mirage upon close scrutiny." But Boulden wrote that he nevertheless thought Rubens should have "recused herself from all involvement" in the reassignment of her predecessor and that she "created the appearance of impropriety" by not doing so.

He said he did not agree that Gibson, in making his decision, had been influenced by outside pressures, as Rubens and her attorney argued.

Boulden's ruling mirrored one in an identical case late last week. In that appeal, a Chicago merit board judge reversed the VA's attempts to demote and relocate another top official, Kimberly Graves, who was accused at the same time as Rubens of arranging her own relocation to the director's job in St. Paul, Minn.

Rather than clearing Graves of wrongdoing, the judge ruled that her punishment was excessive because officials had failed to discipline another top official involved in the transfers. In that case, the judge said the other official "failed to exercise sound judgment as much, if not more, because of his higher position."

U.S. Rep. Jeff Miller (R., Fla.), chairman of the House VA Committee and one of the lawmakers who has called for Rubens and Graves to be fired, used the two decisions to again lambaste the agency.

In a statement Tuesday, Miller said the cases are "irrefutable proof" the VA "isn't consistently and fairly holding employees accountable." tnadolny@phillynews.com

American Legion extends flood victim drive



American Legion Post 184 is holding a drive for flood victims until Tuesday, Feb. 9.
Click main image for a full-size version

by **Madison Russ**

WILDWOOD – American Legion Post 184 and Vietnam Veterans chapter 955 has decided to extend a drive for flood victims in Wildwood until Tuesday, Feb. 9.

An outpour of donations has come from around the community and even as far as Philadelphia, according to volunteers. Since the drive began a week ago, they've helped to serve more than 200 flood victims from the severe Jan. 23 storm.

"That's our mission in life – to help the community and veterans," Legion Commander Harry Weimar said.

Inside the legion, tables stacked with donated clothing, food, bedding, furniture, and other necessities continue to grow. The Ladies Auxiliary Club has been helping to sort, fold, and organized the donated items.

"The clothing is amazing," said Kathi Weimar, a volunteer and wife to Harry. "I think people opened up their whole closet and gave everything."

Various local business and schools across the island have come together to drop off donations. South Jersey Paper Products also donated several cases of cleaning supplies. The Animal Welfare Society dropped off several bags of dog food as well.

The Girl Scout Troops of both Dennis Township and Wildwood have also chipped in to help.

Even those who lost everything in Winter Storm Jonas have found a way to lend a hand to the Legion's drive.

Harry Weimar added that they've had support from Wildwood Mayor Ernie Troiano. Wildwood Commissioner Pete Byron rolled up his sleeves this past Friday and Saturday to lend the Legion a hand.

American Legion Post 184 is located at 4200 Atlantic Ave. in Wildwood. The post will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except for Sunday Feb. 7 for residents to pick up donated items.

Those who wish to donate, can contact Commander Harry Weimar at 609-770-8144 or Vietnam Veterans chapter 955 Treasurer Vincent Deprinzi at (609)827-7062.

NYFD

From: "Wojciechowicz, Margaret, VBANWRK"
Date: Feb 1, 2016 9:01:50 AM
Subject: e-mail please
To: <vva12p@verizon.net>

Could you please e-mail to you contacts and you might get one from John Rowan also.

New York is looking for any Vietnam Veterans that might have served with the New York Fire Department between

1955-1975. They are looking to do something special for them in May 2016.

Could you please send this out and have them contact me is they are retired from the NYFD.

Thanks.

Good day VSO Partners,

On March 29, 2016, the Department of Veterans Affairs' Newark Regional Office will be hosting an event (Town Hall Meeting/Claims Clinic) for Vietnam Veterans at the NJ Vietnam Veteran Memorial Foundation in Holmdel, NJ as part of the VA's Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

We would like extend an invitation for you to set up an information table regarding the services you provide to Veterans during this event. Please let me know no later than COB/Friday, February 19th, if you are interested so we can prepare accordingly to ensure tables are set up to accommodate you.

The event will start at 11AM – 4PM.

Thanking you in advance.

Below is a brief synopsis.

Background

In 2007, the 110th Congress incorporated language in H.R. 4986 authorizing the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is a commemorative partner with the Department of Defense (DoD) -- the lead federal agency authorized by Congress. The 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration recognizes and thanks Vietnam Veterans for their service and sacrifices. VA will host events across all administrations on **March 29, 2016**, to proudly support this noble endeavor.

Respectfully,

Jennifer E. Myers



Township of Manalapan

Mayor

MARY ANN MUSICH

Deputy Mayor

SUSAN COHEN

Township Committee

JORDAN MASKOWITZ

JACK MCNABOE

DAVID KANE

Attention Train Lovers!

The Manalapan Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee will be hosting a Lionel train show at the Manalapan Community Center, located at 114 Route 33 West in Manalapan, on Sunday, February 14th from 9am to 3pm.

All are welcome to attend. Great day to bring the children to enjoy all the train displays. Any donations collected at the door will go towards helping the veterans in our community. We look forward to a great turnout.

To learn more about our Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee go to our website ManalapanVeterans.com. If you need more information regarding this event, please contact Jack McNaboe at JMcNaboe@mtnj.org or [732-446-8308](tel:732-446-8308).

Thank you for your support.

URLS & Misc

BIG WIN FOR AGENT ORANGE CHILDREN

<http://www.disabledveterans.org/2015/12/28/big-win-for-children-of-vietnam-veterans/>

From National

To All:

Our Membership Affairs Committee made a motion to the National BOD to make \$100.00 a permanent price for a Life Time Membership. This motion was passed on Saturday and is retroactive January 1, 2016.

We will get the membership brochure and all the membership applications changed as soon as we can to reflect the permanent change.

Charlie Hobbs, Chair
MAC

VVA Web Weekly, January 11th, Jan 29th

<p><u>The American Red Cross</u> President and CEO Marsha J. Evans' salary for the year was \$651,957 plus expenses</p>	<p><u>MARCH OF DIMES</u> It is now called the March of Dimes because <u>only a dime for every 1 dollar is given to the needy.</u></p>	<p><u>The United Way</u> President Brian Gallagher receives a \$375,000 base salary along with numerous expense benefits.</p>	<p><u>UNICEF</u> CEO Caryl M. Stern receives \$1,200,000 per year (100k permonth) plus all expenses including a ROLLS ROYCE. <u>Less than 5 cents of your donated dollar goes to the cause.</u></p>	<p><u>GOODWILL</u> CEO and owner Mark Curran profits \$2.3 million a year. Goodwill is a very catchy name for his business. You donate to his business and then he sells the items for PROFIT. He pays nothing for his products and pays his workers minimum wage! Nice Guy. <u>\$0.00 goes to help anyone!</u> Stop giving to this man.</p>
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Instead, give it to ANY OF THE FOLLOWING GO "GREEN" AND PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE IT WILL DO SOME GOOD (Some of these are U.S. only but not all.) :

<p><u>The Salvation Army</u> Commissioner, Todd Bassett receives a small salary of only \$13,000 per year(plus housing) for managing this \$2 billion dollar organization. <u>96 percent of donated dollars go to the cause.</u></p>	<p><u>The American Legion</u> National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!</p>	<p><u>The Veterans of Foreign Wars</u> National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!</p>	<p><u>The Disabled American Veterans</u> National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!</p>	<p><u>The Military Order of Purple Hearts</u> National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!</p>
<p><u>The Vietnam Veterans Association</u> National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!</p>	<p><u>Make a Wish:</u>For children's last wishes. 100% goes to funding trips or special wishes for a dying child.</p>	<p><u>St. Jude Research Hospital</u> 100% goes towards funding and helping Children with Cancer who have no insurance and can not afford to pay.</p>	<p><u>Ronald McDonald Houses</u> All monies go to running the houses for parents who have critical Children in the hospital. 100% goes to housing, and feeding the families.</p>	<p><u>Lions Club International</u> 100% OF DONATIONS GO TO HELP THE BLIND,BUY HEARING AIDES, SUPPORT MEDICAL MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD. THEIR LATEST UNDERTAKING IS MEASLES VACCINATIONS (ONLY \$1.00 PER SHOT).</p>

HUMOR???

Company Memo

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director
TO: All Employees
DATE: November 1, 2015
RE: Gala Christmas Party

I'm happy to inform you that the company Christmas Party will take place on December 23rd, starting at noon in the private function room at the Grill House.

There will be a cash bar and plenty of drinks! We'll have a small band playing traditional carols... feel free to sing along. And don't be surprised if our CEO shows up dressed as Santa Claus!

A Christmas tree will be lit at 1:00 PM. Exchanges of gifts among employees can be done at that time; however, no gift should be over \$10.00 to make the giving of gifts easy for everyone's pockets.

This gathering is only for employees!

Our CEO will make a special announcement at that time!

Merry Christmas to you and your family,
Patty

Company Memo

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director
TO: All Employees
DATE: November 2, 2015
RE: Gala Holiday Party

In no way was yesterday's memo intended to exclude our Jewish employees. We recognize that Hanukkah is an important holiday, which often coincides with Christmas, though unfortunately not this year.

However, from now on, we're calling it our "Holiday Party." The same policy applies to any other employees who are not Christians and to those still celebrating Reconciliation Day.

There will be no Christmas tree and no Christmas carols will be sung.

We will have other types of music for your enjoyment.

Happy now?

Happy Holidays to you and your family,
Patty

Company Memo

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director
TO: All Employees

DATE: November 3, 2015

RE: Holiday Party

Regarding the note I received from a member of Alcoholics Anonymous requesting a non-drinking table, you didn't sign your name...

I'm happy to accommodate this request, but if I put a sign on a table that reads, "AA Only", you wouldn't be anonymous anymore. How am I supposed to handle this?

Somebody?

And sorry, but forget about the gift exchange, no gifts are allowed since the union members feel that \$10.00 is too much money and the executives believe \$10.00 is a little chintzy.

REMEMBER: NO GIFTS EXCHANGE WILL BE ALLOWED.

Patty

Company Memo

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director

To: All Employees

DATE: November 4, 2015

RE: Generic Holiday Party

What a diverse group we are! I had no idea that December 20th begins the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which forbids eating and drinking during daylight hours.

There goes the party! Seriously, we can appreciate how a luncheon at this time of year does not accommodate our Muslim employees' beliefs. Perhaps the Grill House can hold off on serving your meal until the end of the party or else package everything for you to take it home in little foil doggy baggy. Will that work?

Meanwhile, I've arranged for members of Weight Watchers to sit farthest from the dessert buffet, and pregnant women will get the table closest to the restrooms.

Gays are allowed to sit with each other. Lesbians do not have to sit with Gay men, each group will have their own table.

Yes, there will be flower arrangement for the Gay men's table. To the person asking permission to cross dress, the Grill House asks that no cross-dressing be allowed, apparently because of concerns about confusion in the restrooms. Sorry.

We will have booster seats for short people.
Low-fat food will be available for those on a diet.

I am sorry to report that we cannot control the amount of salt used in the food. The Grill House suggests that people with high blood pressure taste a bite first.

There will be fresh "low sugar" fruits as dessert for diabetics, but the restaurant cannot supply "no sugar" desserts. Sorry!

Did I miss anything?!?!?

Patty

Company Memo

FROM: Patty Lewis, Human Resources Director

TO: All Frigging Employees

DATE: November 5, 2015

Re: The Frigging Holiday Party

I've had it with you vegetarian nit-pickers!!! We're going to keep this party at the Grill House whether you like it or not, so you can sit quietly at the table furthest from the "grill of death," as you so quaintly put it, and you'll get your frigging salad bar, including organic tomatoes.

But you know, tomatoes have feelings, too. They scream when you slice them. I've heard them scream. I'm hearing them scream right NOW!

The rest of you frigging wierdos can kiss my *ss. I hope you all have a rotten holiday!

Drive drunk and die,

The B*tch from H*ll!!!

Company Memo

FROM: BOB Bishop, Acting Human Resources Director

DATE: November 6, 2015

RE: Patty Lewis and Holiday Party

I'm sure I speak for all of us in wishing Patty Lewis a speedy recovery from her recent nervous breakdown and I'll continue to forward your cards to her at the asylum.

In the meantime, management has decided to cancel our Holiday Party and give everyone the afternoon of the 23rd off with full pay.

Happy Whatever Joan!

**I thought you all would like this
I am a Seenager. (Senior teenager)**

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later.

I don't have to go to school or work.

I get an allowance every month.

I have my own pad.

I don't have a curfew.

I have a driver's license and my own car.

I have ID that gets me into bars and the whisky store.

The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant.

And I don't have acne.

Life is Good! Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this.

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe.

Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full, so too, do humans take longer to access information when their brains are full.

Researchers say this slowing down process is not the same as cognitive decline. The human brain works slower in old age, said Dr. Michael Ramscar, but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

Now You Know!

TAPS

Shore Area Vietnam Vets Called Home By The Lord

Bronson, Jack “ Doc”, Army

Cassidy, Daniel, 73, Bayville, Army

Corapi, Paul, 69, Point Pleasant Beach, USAF

Deangelo, Dennis, 69, Toms River, USAF

Echols, Edward, 71, Long Branch, Army

Gionattasio, Gerald “Jerry”, 67, Manchester, USAF

Kaczmarek, Walter, 73, Toms River, Army

Knepper, Ronald, 64, Toms River, Army

Kunz, William, 73, Brant Beach, Army

Mccreary, Carey, 69, Ocean Grove, Army

Weber, Frank, 85, Belford, USAF

REST IN PEACE BROTHERS