

Volume 15 • Issue 05

VVA Chapter 12 * Newsletter

May 2015

MEMORIAL DAY 2015



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.'

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following month's newsletter. (Make sure it can be verified)

President's Message

O"WHAT A NIGHT: On April 25, 2015 the Chapter held its annual Dinner Dance with 150 in attendance. Dan Higgins and Richie Gough were given the Chapter's Old Reliable Award. Brotherhood Of The Year Award was given to Mike 'The Q' Quilty, and Paul Bausch. Point Men of the Year was given to Bobby Lopez, and Bucky Grimm. The annual HORSE'S ASS went to our two Tonys - Tony 'Boo Boo" Ponzo, and Tony Corbella. This made them both two time winners. Tommy "Can Do" Milmoe, and Billy Monahan were given 1st place awards for their floats at the Belmar and Rumson parades. Speaking of Rumson, Ernie presented our First Place Military Marching trophy from the Rumson Saint Patrick's Day parade. Rich Mcgovern won the "Top Salesmen award," for his selling of ads fou this year's journal, the largest we ever had, 119 pages! Our Treasurer from Greensville, NY was given the "Squealing Pig Award" for spending Chapter funds. Our Brother from south Jersey, Paul Sutton, was given the Chapter Veterans Advocate Award for his work in our Agent Orange fight. This year's AVVA member of the year was presented to Stephen Baker. Chapters Gold Medallion member Paul Sutton, Bronze members Bob Hopkins, Michael Berman, Dennis Beauregard, and Humanitarian Ernie DiOrio, inducted Stephen Baker as Humanitarian Member to the Chapel of Four Chaplains.

As in the past Brother "Boo Boo" Ponzo had something up his sleeve. He called all the Chapter members to the center of the floor. I told Ernie "O shit, now what"? The last time we had to dress up as Japanese Sumo wrestlers. He had a Certificate of Promotion to make me an Honorary Colonel in the United States Army. Ernie and I presented a donation to Ken and Helen Kurbitz from the Gold Star Family, And to Stephen Baker from Make a Wish Foundation. Thanks for all your support.

In Brotherhood,

The Colonel



UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

The next Chapter meeting will be on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at 7:30PM. Location is at VFW 2226, 210 Norwood Ave., Oakhurst, NJ.

May 3rd, Ground breaking for Gold Star Mothers Memorial

May 25th, Memorial day at the NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial

May 25th, Spring Lake Parade (meet 8:30 at Princess Maria Diner – "Blue Diner",Rt 35 North, Spring Lake)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Tony Ponzo B/D 5/30

Tony and Linda Ponzo Anniversary 5/12

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

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



GOLD STAR FAMILY Gold Star Family Monument

The New Jersey Gold Star Family Monument Foundation

Is Proud to Announce Our--

Ground Breaking Ceremony

Marking the Start of the Construction Phase of our Monument.

We hope you and your Organization's members can join uson Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 2:00 PM

At the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' memorial

1 Memorial Lane

Holmdel, NJ 07733



NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL VIETNAM ERA MUSEUM & EDUCATIONAL CENTER



Dear Ceremony Participants,

With Memorial Day just around the corner, it is time to plan for your organization's wreath at our annual ceremony. This year's ceremony will take place on Monday, May 25 at 11:00 am.

If you are planning on participating, we ask that someone from your organization notify us no later than May 20, 2015. If your wreath is currently stored at NJVVMF we will need to retrieve it from storage - so the deadline is very important. We would also would appreciate knowing if you are placing a live or artificial wreath.

Also, please note that we will not be holding a wreath-laying ceremony on May 7th, New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Day.

As always, thank you for your support and dedication, we look forward to seeing you on Memorial Day.

Leslie J. Decker
Office Manager
Idecker@njvvmf.org
New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation
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VA Extends Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury

04/13/2015 01:13 PM EDT

VA Extends Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury

Contracts Awarded to Assisted Living Providers

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced the award of 20 contracts for the Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (AL-TBI). Originally slated to end in 2014, the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 ("VACAA") extended this program through October 2017.

"We are pleased to extend this valuable program and provide specialized assisted living services to eligible Veterans with traumatic brain injury that will enhance their rehabilitation, quality of life and community integration," said Dr. Carolyn Clancy, VA's Interim Under Secretary for Health, "TBI is one of the prevalent wounds of the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and VA remains committed to taking care of those Veterans suffering from TBI."

Under the AL-TBI program, Veterans meeting the eligibility criteria are placed in private sector TBI residential care facilities specializing in neurobehavioral rehabilitation. The program offers team-based care and assistance in areas such as speech, memory and mobility. Approximately 202 Veterans participated in the AL-TBI Pilot Program in 47 facilities located in 22 states. Currently, 101 Veterans participate in the pilot as VA continues to accept new eligible patients into the program.

In October, <u>VA issued a request for proposal</u> (RFP) for vendors wishing to participate in the program. In accordance with the RFP, VA has awarded 20 contracts to facilities located in 27 states. The contracts went into effect on April 1, 2015. The program is currently effective through October 2017, in accordance with VACAA.

For more information about the TBI program, visit<u>www.polytrauma.va.gov</u>. For information about VA's work to implement the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014,

see http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/documents/FactSheets/Progress-Report-March-2015-Fact-Sheet.pdf

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From: Jill Drummond

Date: Apr 30, 2015 5:34:04 PM

Subject: Could I get some help with this?

To: vva12p@verizon.net

I wanted to contact Dennis Beauregard, who helped point me in the right direction to get treatment for my husband for his PTSD. We spoke again at the Chapter 12's annual dinner dance last Saturday night, which by the way was really fun. What a warm and welcoming group of people.

Here's what I need help with. I'm looking for veterans who are interested in telling their story of realizing they had symptoms of PTSD, coming out of the closet about it, and getting the help they need.

The attached page explains more about it.

Is there any way that I could reach out through your organization, to find people who may want to share their story on a website I'm creating? Is there a newsletter or some way to post my message?

Thanks for any help you can give me.

Jill Drummond

Coming Out of the Closet About PTSD

Our son came out as a gay man about 5 years ago. That took a lot of courage and I really admire him. Now I'm starting to notice many other things that take courage to admit, where people would rather stay "in the closet" for various reasons. PTSD is one of them. I see how much courage it sometimes takes to say, "I've been through some awful things in wartime, and now I suffer from the effects of it. I've got symptoms of PTSD and want to get help." Did you know that about half of the men and women who have spent time in war zones experience PTSD or "partial PTSD" at some point in their lives?

I have two reasons for reaching out to you all. First, I want you to know that Vet Centers, run by vets for vets, are great places to get help. Don't wait. The symptoms only get worse with time, if they aren't treated.

My second reason is that I'm creating a website about having the courage to be who we are, to let other people know us, and to take steps to make our lives better. It will offer articles, resources and personal stories, some of them about veterans and PTSD. It'll also include other topics. The common theme is the challenge of realizing some important truth about ourselves and then being willing to let others know us as we are.

I'm looking for ex-POW's and combat vets who'd like to tell their story of how they're recognizing and getting treatment for PTSD. Maybe you don't need support or encouragement anymore, but your story could be a tremendous gift to someone else. The story of one person's courage can be a powerful inspiration to others traveling a similar path. It may be just what they need to hear. My husband, who recently started treatment for his PTSD, is now considering sharing his story on the website.

You can tell your story in your own writing or in an interview with me. I'll provide some questions that will help bring out some important aspects of your story. But before we even start, I'll put it in writing that I won't post your story on my website unless you agree to the final version. And if you want it removed or changed at any time, you would have the right to do so.

If you're interested, or have questions, please contact me at

jilldrum@optonline.net.

Copy and Paste to your browser to view

From: Howard Kuker < beachperson918@yahoo.com >

Date: April 19, 2015 at 4:15:15 PM EDT To: HK < beachperson918@yahoo.com > Subject: P.T.S.D. / JOE'S WAR - YouTube

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=JoEdY5Ut4MA

From: Rick Weidman

Date: Apr 24, 2015 2:59:26 PM

Subject: Proposed Budget Cuts Fact Sheet

To: Offs&BOD&SpecAdv&CChairs&SCPs < OBSCP@vva.org >

Cc: !Everyone <!<u>Everyone435435@vva.org</u>>

Proposed Budget Cuts Fact Sheet April 24, 2015

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has before it one of the greatest opportunities in its history to enhance care for veterans and build a more efficient and effective system. The Department is listening to what Veterans, Congress, employees, Veterans Service Organizations and other stakeholders are telling us. We are working to make VA a model agency that is held up as an example for other government agencies to follow with respect to customer experience, efficient and effective operations, and taxpayer stewardship.

We are also working to ensure that we have made necessary investments to honor our sacred commitment to care for our veterans in the future. The funding needs we are dealing with now reflect the health care costs of an aging Veterans population. As we continue to improve our care for this population, we have to start building the capability today to care for the Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans as they age.

To support this mission, the President's proposed 2016 Budget would provide \$70.2 billion in discretionary funding for VA, a 7.9 percent increase above the 2015 enacted level. In addition, the proposed budget included \$3.2 billion in estimated medical care collections, for a total discretionary budget authority of \$73.5 billion (which includes \$3.2 billion in Medical Care Collections), and \$95.3 billion for VA's mandatory benefit programs.

This funding level will provide the resources to fulfill VA's mission to provide timely, quality health care and services to Veterans. It will allow VA to operate one of the largest integrated healthcare systems in the country, serving approximately 9.4 million Veterans enrolled to receive care; and run a compensation benefits program for approximately 4.3 million Veterans.

On April 15, 2015, the House Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee considered the fiscal year (FY) 2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations bill and proposed a cut of \$1.4 billion to the President's budget request for America's Veterans.

If this markup goes forward, the unacceptable impact of these cuts to Veterans' care and benefits include:

- Cut Veterans Medical Care by \$690 million—the equivalent of over 70,000 fewer Veterans receiving VA medical care, compared to the President's request.
- Eliminate funding for four Major Construction projects. This cut will reduce VA's ability to provide additional outpatient services and will impact the following projects:
- o The planned rehab therapy building in St. Louis, MS o The initial phase of the Alameda, CA Outpatient Clinic o Construction of the long sought-after French Camp, CA CBOC o The Replacement 155 bed Community Living Center in Perry Point, MD
- Eliminate funding for cemetery expansion projects in St. Louis, Portland, Riverside, Bayamon (Puerto Rico), and Pensacola, and a new columbarium in Alameda—reducing our ability to provide burial honors for as many as 18,000 Veterans and eligible family members, annually.

From: VVA Government Affairs Department < govtrelations@vva.org >

To: "Robert McNulty, Sr." < remcnultysr@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 3:01 PM

Subject: Take Action NOW! Ask your Member of Congress to Co-sponsor S.901 and H.R. 1769, the Toxic

Exposure Research Act of 2015



Take Action NOW! Ask your Member of Congress to Co-sponsor S.901 and H.R. 1769, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015

Vietnam Veterans of America Legislative Alert April 16, 2015

Senators Jerry Moran of Kansas and Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut have introduced S.901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015. The same act has also been introduced in the House by Representatives Dr. Dan Benishek of Michigan and Mike Honda from California H.R. 1769.

Among the so-called invisible wounds of war are those brought home by troops that may not manifest for a decade or more. And most tragically, they may be genetically passed on to the progeny of our nation's warriors.

If enacted into law, this bipartisan legislation will establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a National Center for research into the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service in the Armed Forces.

Toxins such as Agent Orange are believed to cause birth defects in the children of military personnel who came into contact with them, during the Vietnam War, in the storage and transportation of those toxins, or by riding in aircraft that had been previously used to transport the toxins. During the Persian Gulf War, more than 100,000 veterans were exposed to chemical weapons from a plume after an Iraqi ammo dump was blown up by U.S. forces at the end of the Gulf War. In Afghanistan and Iraq, thousands of troops were exposed to burn pits, oil fires, and possibly tainted vaccines.

The Founding Principle is Vietnam Veterans of America is: "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." And we strongly support S.901 and H.R. 1769. VVA urges you to take action now! Go to our Legislative Action site at http://capwiz.com/vva/home/ and Enter your Zip Code and send the prepared letter to your U.S. Senators and Representative asking them to join their colleagues and co-sponsor S.901 and H.R. 1769, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015.

Vietnam Veterans of America (<u>www.vva.org</u>) is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans' service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families.

Subject: Fish from Vietnam

Courtesy of George Corbett in Virginia:

A MUST SEE VIDEO!!! EAT FISH????

From a fellow Vietnam veteran.....I fully agree with him....
George

If it has Viet Nam on the package I never buy it - fish or any seafood! Always thought of Agent Orange run off! Think about it then watch this!

John

Http://www.youtube.com/embed/h1nEPzsFpc0?feature=player







IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 30, 2015

No. 15-2

Press Release

Contact: Mokie Porter 301-585-4000, Ext. 146

Vietnam Veterans of America Joins in Lawsuit Against VA Secretary for New Claims Policy That Violates Rights of Disabled Vets

(Washington, D.C.)-- "Vietnam Veterans of America has joined four other veterans service organizations as a co-plaintiff to The American Legion et. al. v. McDonald in an effort to stop the implementation of a new rule eliminating most informal VA claims and limiting the types of claims the VA will adjudicate," announced John Rowan, VVA National President. "Informal claims account for approximately half of all claims the VA receives," said Rowan. "The new rule, which went into effect March 25, eradicates the decades-old right of a veteran to write a letter to the VA, seeking a specific VA benefit and having the VA consider that letter as an informal claim. The new rule also prevents the VA from considering claims that are supported by the evidence in the VA record but have not been specifically claimed by the veteran."

The new rule changes, which require claims to be submitted on the VA's standardized forms, will impose barriers for all those without access to those forms, as well as those without the medical and legal knowledge needed to fill them out correctly. "While the VA has promoted this rule change as being more efficient and therefore favorable to the veteran, in fact, this rule change over-formalizes the veterans claims process, making it more adversarial than ever before. We will not stand by silently as our government places further obstacles in front of our injured and disabled veterans and their families, undermining our nation's pledge to care for those who have borne the battle and their families," said Rowan.

Prior to March 25, under the informal VA claims system, any benefits awarded would be paid back to the date that the VA had received a notice from the veteran, signaling his or her intent to file. Under the new rule changes, however, the clock for an effective date for benefits starts only when a veteran files the standardized VA paperwork. The suit, which seeks to have the Department of Veterans Affairs' new rule declared unlawful by the courts, was filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals on March 20 and was entered into the court's docket on March 26. The other co-plaintiffs in the lawsuit are the American Legion, AMVETS, The Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the National Veterans Legal Services Program.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicat

Nerve Gas Hit Our Own Troops in Iraq

According to a March 27 *Newsweek* article by Barbara Koeppel, during and immediately after the first Gulf War, more than 200,000 of 700,000 U.S. troops sent to Iraq and Kuwait in January 1991 were exposed to nerve gas and other chemical agents. Though aware of this, the Department of Defense and CIA launched a campaign of lies and concocted a cover-up that continues today.

Military Base Realignments and Closures: Process for Reusing Property for Homeless Assistance Needs Improvements, GAO-15-274, March 16

http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-274

This report is many, many years overdue and much-needed. All too often, agencies restrict viable properties on military installations for innocuous reasons, lessening the community's opportunities to provide decent housing and training opportunities to the homeless, particularly homeless veterans. I was involved in a three-year-long failed effort to gain access to a long-closed military installation in Salem County, denied for superfluous reasons.

Little Headway in VA Effort to Reduce Wait Times

According to an April 9 AP article on the *Military.com* website by David B. Caruso, a year after Americans recoiled at new revelations that sick veterans were getting sicker while languishing on waiting lists—and months after the Department of Veterans Affairs instituted major reforms— government data shows that the number of patients facing long waits at VA facilities has not dropped at all.

SCHOOL PROGRAM CHAPTER 12

ON APRIL 14 MEMBERS OF THE CHAPTER HAD A FUN DAY WITH OUR PRESENTATION OF OUR VIETNAM PROGRAM AT MATAWAN HIGH SCHOOL.



MARCHING IN THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE IN RUMSON, NJ

BECAUSE OF OUR GREAT MARCHING IN THE PARADE, WE WON FOR THE BEST MARCHING MILITARY UNIT IN THEIR PARADE AND RECEIVED A BEAUTIFUL TROPHY - BELIEVE THAT!



ELECTION NIGHT IN CHAPTER 12 ON APRIL 1, 2015

ALL THE OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS WON BY ONE VOTE, IT WAS CLOSE, BUT YOU HAVE THE SAME OFFICERS RUNNING THE CHAPTER FOR ANOTHER YEAR AND BOARD MEMBERS.









2015 INSTALLATION DINNER/DANCE



































Humorous Things



1 of 10 Preposterous Military Hoaxes That Worked

Ranger Rick's (Magovern) Heavy Artillery

This is Hilarious

Dennis,

thought this would go well with next issue,

Doc L

http://www.doyletics.com/tidbits/militaryadvice.pdf

HUMOR

While strolling round the Harbor this morning about 7 am., I noticed a character shouting "Allah be praised" and "Death to all infidels" and suddenly he tripped and fell into the water.

He was struggling to stay afloat because of all the explosives he was carrying. If he didn't get help he would surely drown.

Being a responsible citizen, and abiding by the law of the land that requires you to help those in distress, I informed the Police, the Coastguard, the Immigration Office and even the Fire Dept.

It is now 11 a.m., the terrorist has drowned, and none of the authorities have yet to respond.

I'm starting to think I wasted four stamps.

A young cowboy from Montana goes off to college. Half way through the semester, having foolishly squandered all his money, he calls home. "Dad," he says, "You won't believe what modern education is developing! They actually have a program here in Alabama that will teach our dog, Ole' Blue how to talk!"

"That's amazing," his Dad says. "How do I get Ole' Blue in that program?"

"Just send him down here with \$1,000" the young cowboy says "and I'll get him in the course." So, his father sends the dog & \$1,000.

About 2/3 of the way through the semester, the money again runs out. The boy calls home.

"So how's Ole' Blue doing?" his father asks.

"Awesome, Dad, he's talking up a storm," he says, "but you just won't believe this. They've had such good results they have started to teach the animals how to read!"

"Read!?" says his father. "No kidding! How do we get Blue in that program?"

"Just send \$2,500, I'll get him in the class." The money promptly arrives. But our hero has a problem. At the end of the year, his father will find out the dog can neither talk, nor read. So he shoots the dog. When he arrives home at the end of the year, his father is all excited.

"Where's Ole' Blue? I just can't wait to see him read something and talk!"

"Dad," the boy says, "I have some grim news. Yesterday morning, just before we left to drive home, Ole' Blue was in the living room, kicked back in the recliner, reading the Wall Street Journal, like he usually does. Then Ole' Blue turned to me and asked, so, is your dad still messing around with that little redhead who lives down the street?"

The father went white & exclaimed, "I hope you shot that lying SOB before he talks to your Mother!"

"I sure did, Dad!"

"That's my boy!"

The kid went on to law school, and now serves in Washington D.C. as a Congressman.

A minister dies and, resplendent in his clerical collar and colorful robes, waits in line at the Pearly Gates. Just ahead of him is a guy dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans.

Saint Peter addresses this guy, "Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?"

The guy replies, "I'm Joe Green, taxi-driver, of Noo Yawk City."

Saint Peter consults his list, smiles and says to the taxi-driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff, and enter into the Kingdom."

So the taxi-driver enters Heaven with his robe and staff, and the minister is next in line. Without being asked, he proclaims, "I am Michael O'Connor, head pastor of Saint Mary's for the last forty-three years."

Saint Peter consults his list and says, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the preacher, "that man was a taxi-driver, and you issued him a silken robe and golden staff. But I get wood and cotton. How can this be?"

"Up here, we go by results," says Saint Peter. "While you preached, people slept — while he drove, people prayed."

TAPS

Shore Area Vietnam Vets Called Home By The Lord

Boragine, Louis F., 71, Cliffwood Beach, USAF

Boynton, Robert, 69, West Long Branch, Navy

Crepezzi, Frank, 64, Toms River, Army

Cullari, Frank J., 65, Bayville, Navy

Glascock, Charles "Dick", 73, Manahawkin, USCG

Glover, Harry A., 72, Asbury Park, Army

Kenny, Rev. Thomas, 95, Barnegat, USMC (Korea & Vietnam)

Mace, John A, 65, Lakewood, Navy

Martinetti, Allfred, 69, Point Pleasant, Army

Phillips, William T., 65, Barnegat, Army

REST IN PEACE BROTHERS