



The Sentinel

Vol. 6 No. 3

Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapter 1002 – Wallkill Valley
P.O. box 463, Vernon, NJ 07462 - 973-271-2413

March 2019

Website: www.VVA1002.org

President: John Harrigan

1st Vice President: John Brady

Secretary: Carl Ohlson

2nd Vice President: Walt Hazelman

Chaplin: George Burns

Treasurer: Owen Martin

Sergeant at Arms: Ted Andrews

FROM THE MINEFIELD:

Submitted by John Harrigan

I am pretty sure that we are the only group that can lineup for a Parade and have it Sleet, Rain, Snow and then Sunshine all within one hour of starting. Our Chapter Members should be Proud of the fact that we had over 60 Veterans marching to represent Vietnam Veterans. Along with the Veterans we also had about 30 Family members marching, and besides our Color Guard our Chapter member Ken Geer brought a Color Guard from up in PA and they brought up the rear of our group. The reception we received was overwhelming with people applauding and shouting Welcome Home

We marched to the reviewing stand and took our seats so we could continue to watch the rest of the Parade. There were also two large Banners at the reviewing stands that said Welcome Home and Thank you. It really was a day that those of us who marched will never forget. I know that some of the Committee members had tears in their eyes when they saw how many of us attended and marched proudly and could not believe the turnout we had. Again Thanks to everyone who attended.

On Monday March 25th the New Jersey General Assembly will recognize the Grand Marshals of the Parade from across the State with the presentation of a proclamation honoring our service to the Irish Civic Association and Causes. It will begin at 11:00 am with coffee and refreshments in Statehouse Room 109, and at 12:00 pm we will go into Assembly Chambers for formal photos. The Session will begin at 1:00 pm and a proclamation will commence shortly thereafter.

Once again I want to Thank everyone for their hard work and dedication in making Chapter 1002 something to be proud of.

While at the Parade I was approached by representatives of the Newton Memorial Day Committee and was asked if our Chapter would participate this year. So I am letting you know in advance the date is Monday May 27th at 10:00 am and line up is the same place as the parade we just attended.

The Veterans Family night has started here at St Francis on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 with dinner served first and then the discussion session. This is open to all Veterans and Family members and was told that our Children and grandchildren could attend and see what is going on in the Veterans Community. So if anyone is interested there is still time to come in on Wednesday and see what it is all about. Anyone with questions see me and I'll let you know what is going on with it.

On Thursday April 18th our Chapter member Erin Ashton will be hosting the Veterans Seminar at Sussex Vo-Tec where we will again be discussing the Vietnam War with the Students. This is something we have done for about 5 years now and the Students really learn a lot about what went on over there. Anyone interested please let me know as soon as possible so we can give the school your info and you can get a pass to attend.

That's it for now see you at the meeting.

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Submitted by John Brady

The showing for the Newton St. Patrick's Day Parade was fantastic; approximately 50 members and associate members were present to march down Spring St. in Newton. It was very special as the chapter was named as the Grand Marshall of the parade. This was the first time that an organization was so designated. Usually the honor is bestowed on one or two individuals only.

Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another!

One of the highlights was when the bagpipers preceding us stopped at the reviewing stand and played the hymn of each of the Armed Forces before we took our seats to watch the rest of the parade pass in review. I believe for many of us it was the first time that we observed the parade in its entirety.

It was gratifying to hear the applause and cheers of the crowd, something many of us did not experience when we came back from Vietnam. It was not that we expected or looked for any accolades upon our return, just the acknowledgement and respect that we had served.

Thanks to all the members that attended and to all those who were not able to be present but were with us in spirit.

In the coming months we have Memorial Day and the 4th of July to look forward to.

SERVICE OFFICER:

Submitted by Skip Kays

Bankrupt vets can lose their disability benefits. This new effort would protect them.

Two senators just introduced a bill designed to shield veterans' disability benefits from debt collectors.

When a disabled vet declares bankruptcy currently, the law allows debtors to count a veteran's disability benefits as disposable income, allowing them to seize the benefits.

Yet Social Security disability benefits are exempted by law from being lumped into a person's disposable income in bankruptcy filings, and disability benefits in any form aren't taxable and therefore generally not considered disposable income.

The Honoring American Veterans in Extreme Need (HAVEN) Act seeks to create the same immunity in bankruptcy cases for benefits provided by the VA and Department of Defense to disabled veterans and their surviving spouses.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, introduced the bill, which has already been endorsed by 10 Republican and 10 Democratic senators. It has also earned the support of organizations like the American Legion, Disabled Veterans of America and the American Bankruptcy Institute, among others.

"Right now, veterans and their families are forced to dip into their disability-related benefits to pay off bankruptcy creditors," said Baldwin during an unveiling event for HAVEN in her Senate office. "And that's not right. This reform will protect veterans' disability benefits when they fall on hard times."

Supporters of the legislation say it's unfair that veterans may be forced to give up their disability benefits when declaring bankruptcy, while the general population receiving similar benefits through Social Security does not.

Transition of Service Members and Veterans into the Merchant Marine:

President Trump signed an executive order to "promote employment opportunities for United States military veterans while growing the cadre of trained United States mariners available to meet United States requirements for national and economic security."

The executive order requires the United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System, DOD, and the Department of Homeland Security to streamline credentialing and transition of service members into the Merchant Marines.

This is a hopeful order however the number of US Merchant Marine berths has been shrinking since the end of the Vietnam War when there was no longer as much shipping (to supply the war) and companies flagged ships in less expensive foreign countries and hired less expensive foreign crews.

Purple Heart vets will get disability claims moved quicker

Veterans who earned a Purple Heart during their military service will now have their veterans disability claims moved ahead of other requests, Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie announced on Tuesday.

"Those who hold the Purple Heart, the recognition of wounds taken in battle, will now receive priority consideration when it comes to claims," he told members of the House Appropriations Committee. The new policy will go into effect on April 1.

The move follows existing department rules which give priority classification to Purple Heart veterans who request medical appointments at VA hospitals. Those veterans are also exempt from all co-payments for their medical care.

An overhaul of the benefits appeals process is promising to cut wait times down to under a year from the current average of more than three years.

But the move raised concerns among some advocates who noted that many serious wounds of war like post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury aren't often recognized with the military medal.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart estimates more than 35,000 Iraq War veterans and more than 22,000 Afghanistan War veterans have received the medal, one of the best known military honors in the country. It's the oldest U.S. military decoration, first presented as the Badge of Military Merit by Gen. George Washington during the American Revolution.

Just how much of an impact the benefits change will have on VA case processing is unclear.

As of last week, the department's caseload of initial benefits claims include more than 83,000 that have been pending for more than 125 days, the department's target for rendering a decision. That figure has been largely stable for the last three years, after spiking above 600,000 in early 2013.



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Under the old rules, veterans had to have a clear medical explanation for their pain in order to be eligible for disability payouts.

The policy change won't affect supplemental claims or veterans' appeals.

From 1978, the

National Lampoon Vietnam Vets Simulation Kit

This was pretty funny to me at the time (I subscribed to the Lampoon). Unfortunately it seemed that way too many guys I ran into who claimed VN vet status must have read something like this.

It is too long to include here but anyone who wants the full article can email me and I will send it along.

(Go to the last page to see the article.)

WOMEN VETERANS:

Submitted by Walt Hazelman

Treated Like a 'Piece of Meat': Female Veterans Endure Harassment at the V.A.



Corey Foster, 34, retired as an Army sergeant. "Standing in line at the registration desk, I was getting comments from the male patients behind me, looking me up and down," she said, describing a visit to her local Veterans Affairs medical

center. "It was a major source of discomfort." Credit Credit Erin Schaff/The New York Times
WASHINGTON — Corey Foster spent her Army career caring for wounded troops, both as a flight medic in the Iraq war and at Walter Reed hospital, so she looked forward to one of the most celebrated benefits of military service — health care for life from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Then she walked through the door at a V.A. medical center in Temple, Tex.

"You felt like you were a piece of meat," said Ms. Foster, 34, who retired as a sergeant. "Standing in line at the registration desk, I was getting comments from the male patients behind me, looking me up and down. It was a major source of discomfort."

The treatment was the same at the Veterans Affairs medical center in Murfreesboro, Tenn., where Ms. Foster moved after living in Texas. At that point she gave up, and opted for her husband's insurance outside the department. "They need to make the facilities not feel like an old soldier's home," Ms. Foster said.

An entrenched, sexist culture at many veterans hospitals is driving away female veterans and lags far behind the gains women have made in the military in recent years, veterans and lawmakers of both parties say. Although the Department of Veterans Affairs has scrambled to adjust to the rising population of female veterans and has made progress — including hiring more women's health care providers, fixing basic privacy problems in the exam rooms and expanding service to women in rural areas — sexual harassment at department facilities remains a major problem.

Women say it is galling that such a demeaning atmosphere persists, especially for the roughly 30 percent of female veterans who have reported being harassed or assaulted while serving in the military. That number includes Senator Martha McSally, Republican of Arizona, who spoke at a congressional hearing last week about being raped by a superior officer while serving in the Air Force.

"Changing the culture has been an ongoing, overarching goal," said Dr. Patricia Hayes, the chief consultant for Women's Health Services at the veterans agency. "We want women veterans to feel respected and safe and secure."



Doctors and medical assistants at the Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Chicago, where the vast majority of doctors and staff are women and the five exam rooms and waiting area are only for women. Credit Alyssa Schukar for The New York Times

At a recent hearing with veterans agency officials on Capitol Hill, Representative John Carter, Republican of Texas, described the treatment of female constituents trying to obtain V.A. health care. “It’s like a construction site,” he said.

Mr. Carter cited the same medical center in Texas that Ms. Foster had used — and noted that the Women’s Trauma Recovery Center within it was moved last year to a female-only facility in Waco so that women, who said they feared for their safety, could receive treatment without facing harassment.

Representative Will Hurd, Republican of Texas, was visibly frustrated as he described women abandoning the center in his district because of harassment. “This is the biggest concern I hear from female veterans,” he said.

While the number of women using veteran health services has tripled since 2000 — to about 500,000 from 159,810 — they still make up only 8 percent of all users of health care at the V.A. Officials expect that the number will increase. Two million women are in the American veteran population, or about 10 percent, and yet they make up 16 percent of the active-duty military force.

“I believe that we still have a tsunami wave of women vets coming in,” said Dr. Hayes, of Veterans Affairs.

For now, many female veterans say they are made to feel as if they do not belong at the V.A., as they describe front-desk employees asking for a husband’s Social Security number when they check in or being passed over for items like complimentary coffee, which employees say are “for vets.”

“It’s hard to walk into a place and feel like everyone is looking at you wondering why you are there,” said Kristen Rouse, 45, founding director of the NYC Veterans Alliance, who described a sense of loss every time she glanced at the department’s motto affixed to her center in New York City: “To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his

widow, and his orphan.” Her organization supports changing the motto.

A messaging campaign with the slogan “Hello, my name is not ‘Hey Baby,’” at a veterans medical center in Chicago. Credit Alyssa Schukar for The New York Times

“Over the 24 years I have served my country, I have never been any of those,” said Ms. Rouse, who remains a reservist in the Army. “And I never will be.” (That portion of the motto, coined by President Lincoln, is now the subject of legislation.)

Some centers, like the one in Washington, have removed benches from entryways so that men no longer have a place to linger and badger women, or have created separate facilities, like the one in Texas. Every center now has at least two providers focused on women’s health and nearly 6,000 providers have been trained in the practice; about 98 percent of them are women.

While the V.A. is still trying to address the needs of pregnant veterans — the centers do not provide full obstetrics care on site — many of the centers across the country now have baby showers around Mother’s Day, offering diapers and other baby supplies.

Yet the culture remains an impediment for many.

Brandy Baxter, who served as a senior airman in the Air Force, loves the care she receives at the women’s health clinic through the Veterans Affairs center in Dallas. But she hates the elevator ride to get there.

“The male vets give me the once over with their eyes,” she said. “I look them right in the eye, just to tell them, ‘I’m checking your height, your weight, your skin color — just in case I need to report you.’”

This year, the House Veterans Affairs Committee will establish a task force to address women’s health care, and harassment issues are expected to be front and center. “This is about the physical transformation of our facilities,” said Representative Mark Takano, Democrat of California and the new chairman of the committee.

A model for what women’s health care can be is on display at the Jesse Brown V.A. Medical Center in Chicago, where the vast majority of doctors and staff members are women. The five exam rooms and waiting area are only for women, and beyond offering basic health care, the center offers women a number of programs like a golf team, a weight loss group and art therapy.

“I can allow myself to be who I am in front of the doctor or nurse and not be intimidated by men,” said Lori Brown, a patient at the Chicago medical center. Credit Alyssa Schukar for The New York Times

“I think women veterans really want programming that speaks to their entire identity,” said Jenny Sitzler, the coordinator for women at the center.

Staff members wear badges that read, “My name is not ‘Hey baby,’” and banners all over the campus feature the faces of female veterans describing the pain of being harassed on their way through the broader V.A.



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Lori Brown, 58, is grateful for all these services, but most of all for the ability to walk into the medical center without facing harassment, and to have only women for her care. “I can allow myself to be who I am in front of the doctor or nurse and not be intimidated by men,” said Ms. Brown, who was an Army sergeant.

Many other challenges face the V.A., like a shortage of providers for specialty services. Some women say they still struggle to get all of their birth control needs fulfilled at some facilities, and complex laws governing certain fertility treatments remain another area of complaint.

Many women do not use the medical facilities because they lack child care, which the department is largely not legally able to provide. Another issue is reaching homeless female veterans, a serious problem that also affects the male population.

Women also have mental health care needs — over 40 percent of female veterans who use the V.A. are diagnosed with at least one mental health condition, compared with about 25 percent of men.

Bills touching on these issues are expected to come up in this Congress, and some veterans’ organizations have made services for women a top legislative priority, especially Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, all in the name of making the V.A. a better place for women.

“One must be persistent,” Dr. Hayes said. “Culture change does not happen overnight. We want to continue to get the message to women that we want you here.”

POW/MIA:

Submitted by Bob Gilbert

[Soldier Accounted For From World War II \(Shuey, C.\)](#)

WASHINGTON — Army Sgt. Cread E. Shuey, killed during World War II, was accounted for on Feb. 26, 2019. On Dec. 8, 1941, Shuey was a member of Battery G, 60th Coast Artillery Regiment, serving in the Philippines.

[USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II \(Tumlinson, V.\)](#)

WASHINGTON — Navy Fire Controlman 3rd Class Victor P. Tumlinson, killed during the attack on the USS Oklahoma in World War II, was accounted for on Feb. 8, 2019. On Dec. 7, 1941, Tumlinson was assigned to the USS Oklahoma.

[USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II \(Brandt, O.\)](#)

WASHINGTON — Navy Seaman 1st Class Oris V. Brandt, killed during the attack on the USS Oklahoma in World War II, was accounted for on Feb. 20, 2019. On Dec. 7, 1941, Brandt was assigned to the USS Oklahoma.

[USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II \(Johnson, B.\)](#)

WASHINGTON — Navy Fireman 1st Class Billy J. Johnson, killed during the attack on the USS Oklahoma in World War II, was accounted for on Feb. 26, 2019. On Dec. 7, 1941, Johnson was assigned to the USS Oklahoma.

[Soldier Accounted For From Korean War \(Scott, B.\)](#)

WASHINGTON — Army Cpl. Benjamin W. Scott, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on Feb. 20, 2019. In July 1950, Scott was a member of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry.

[Sailor Accounted For From Vietnam War \(Guerra, R.\)](#)

WASHINGTON — Navy Reserve Journalist 3rd Class Raul A. Guerra, killed during the Vietnam War, was accounted for on Feb. 20, 2019. On Oct. 8, 1967, Guerra was a passenger on board an E-1B Tracer, en route from Chu.

[Airman Accounted For From World War II \(Stone, W.\)](#)

WASHINGTON — Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Walter B. Stone, killed during World War II, was accounted for on Feb. 20, 2019. In October 1943, Stone served as a pilot in the 350th Fighter Squadron, 353rd Fighter Group,

[Airman Accounted For From World War II \(Shaffer, C.\)](#)

WASHINGTON — Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Carl M. Shaffer, killed during World War II, was accounted for on Dec. 20, 2018. On Jan. 21, 1944, Shaffer was a member of the 38th Bombardment Squadron, 30th Bombardment.

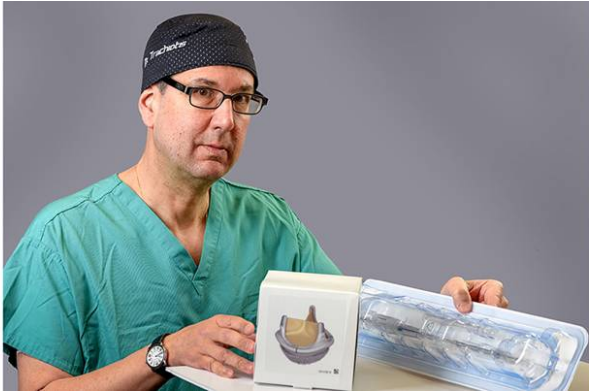
[Soldier Accounted For From Korean War \(Nemec, S.\)](#)

WASHINGTON — Army Cpl. Stephen P. Nemec, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for on July 13, 2018. In late 1950, Nemec was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

AGENT ORANGE:

Submitted by Owen Martin

Official Blog of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
New valve for Veterans with aortic valve disorders
New heart valve therapy a quality of life game changer for Veterans



Posted on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 10:00 am **Posted in Health, Inside Veterans Health** by **VAn tage Point Contributor**

Surgeons at the VA Medical Center in Washington, DC, have begun using a new class of biological resilient tissue valve. It's believed to be a dramatic improvement over traditional bioprosthetic (tissue) valves and mechanical valves for certain patients.

Dr. Gregory Trachiotis is pictured above with one of two new surgical valves: the sutureless (Intuity) valve that can have advantages in Veterans who are older, need other complex cardiac procedures and potentially shorter operative times for aortic valve stenosis.

The only medication needed is a baby aspirin taken daily.

Trachiotis is Chief, Cardiothoracic Surgery and Director of the Heart Center at DC VA medical center.

The other valve, Inspiris, can be suited for the more active and younger Veteran with aortic valve diseases. The DC VAMC was the first VA in the country to implant these valves.

The new class of biological resilient tissue valve is for patients with heart failure and those suffering from fatigue or shortness of breath with exercise and who have passed out because the aortic valve is tight. Prior to treatment, the proper decision for any valve replacement therapy is always discussed with a heart valve team.

The new design treatment option has a preservation process that enhances the longevity and durability of the valve. It's especially promising for youthful energetic Veterans with aortic valve disorders. The current

engineered bioprosthetic valve in a 50-60-year-old may last 20 years.

Valve is longer lasting and resists calcium buildup

Dr. Trachiotis: "The new class of resilient valve is especially beneficial to our younger patients who want to maintain an active lifestyle." Trachiotis is Chief of the Cardiothoracic Surgery and Heart Center.

The new biological valve is longer lasting and resists calcium build-up, eliminating the need for blood thinners. For the younger patient, if the valve fails as they age, it is uniquely designed to facilitate a transcatheter valve in valve (TAVR) procedure, reducing the likelihood of a major cardiac operation. The only medication needed is a baby aspirin taken daily.

Younger patients with the alternative mechanical valve are required to take blood-thinning medication for life to prevent thrombus or clot formation. Mechanical valves also are not suited for a (TAVR) procedure should the valves ever fail.

Over 25 successful Veteran surgeries so far

The new therapy has been used in more than 25 patients so far with excellent results. The DC VA is the first VA in the nation to use the valve and is an early adopter of a sutureless valve which reduces operation time. It also facilitates small incision surgery and is good for patients requiring other cardiac procedures at the same time

Employing the latest advancements in heart valve replacements demonstrates VA's commitment to continued innovation and providing the best possible care for Veterans.

VAn tage Point

Official Blog of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Helping Vets deal with chronic pain without opioids

Virtual reality program provides real results



Posted on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 10:00 am **Posted in Health, Inside Veterans Health** by **VAn tage Point Contributor** **7 comments** **6k views**

A double amputee Veteran looks through his special headset and suddenly is scuba diving under the sea, and sees fish swimming all around. Another Veteran in a



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wheelchair is mountain climbing and can see trails and wild animals along the way. And another Veteran suffering from chronic pain is fishing and can be seen casting his lines in the water.

These are a few examples of how Veterans dealing with various injuries are experiencing a special virtual reality rehabilitation therapy program that is proving to be successful in helping them cope with their physical, cognitive and psychosocial issues.

“These therapies build confidence and develop coping skills.”

In the photo above, Jamie Kaplan, a recreation therapist who oversees the virtual program at the James Haley Tampa VA Medical Center, helps guide Veteran Geoff Hopkins through his chosen virtual reality scenario.

The special program provides Veterans with varied medical issues resulting from traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, amputees, ALS or other similar areas with an alternative to the use of drugs such as opioids. They use a virtual reality headset or can watch on a large monitor screen to experience virtual scenic settings with music and narration individualized to each patient’s interests.

“Virtual reality is able to take the user someplace else they’d rather be,” said Kaplan. “For example, virtual games and activities can allow the wheelchair user to experience freedom from the limitations they face in everyday life.”

Special apps and computer programs are utilized through virtual reality headsets in the Virtual Reality Clinic and at the patient’s bedside. Veterans can choose from 20 scenarios, ranging from mountains and oceans. Veterans can fish, ski, go scuba diving or even play golf.

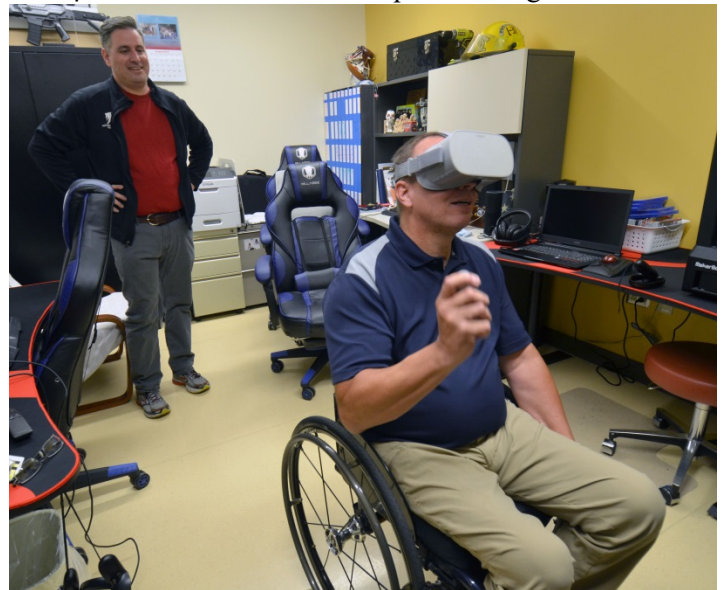
One of the main goals is to help Veterans who suffer from chronic pain reduce their reliance on medications, such as opioids. Relaxation and guided imagery programs are also used to address stress, anxiety, frustration, anger, and pain. Heart rate and self-reporting from the Veteran are used to determine effectiveness. The measures, taken at the beginning and end of each session, have proven to reduce an average of 5 to 7 heart beats per minute while pain levels dropped 2-3 levels during the 10-minute use.

“What is truly exciting is that it is showing measurable results in helping reduce chronic pain while using the program,” Kaplan said. Kaplan said the idea came about through his interest in computer-based video games. He

extended the idea based on video games to develop the virtual reality scenarios.

At first, virtual reality was targeted for use by younger Veterans who are more proficient in the use of technology and social media. However, older Veterans are embracing its use as well. About 200 Veterans, both inpatient and outpatient, have gone through the program.

The Virtual Reality program at James A. Haley VAMC is recognized as part of February as National Therapeutic Recreation Month. VHA has more than 900 recreation therapists and creative arts therapists serving Veterans.



Jamie Kaplan, VA recreation therapist, and Veteran Geoff Hopkins

“Recreation therapy and creative arts therapy provide a spectrum of services, opportunities, and choice for Veterans to maximize their rehabilitation potential, increase independence and sustain a healthy and meaningful leisure lifestyle,” said Lucille Beck, Ph.D., VHA’s Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services. “These therapies provide opportunities to build confidence, develop coping skills, and integrate the skills learned in treatment settings into community settings.”

Guided imagery, meditation, and relaxation programs promote decreased muscle tension, stress, anxiety and blood pressures. This, in turn, can increase function abilities, decrease pain behaviors and increase activity.

COMMUNITY/PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Submitted by Lou Storms

On March 12, myself, Bob Lewis, Carl Ohlson, Bob Cubby and John Fedynich went to the Lyons VA In-Patient PTSD Unit to serve dinner to the Vets there and to the Ladies Unit, provided by ShopRite of West Milford. We served 22 Veterans in the PTSD Unit and 10 Ladies on the 3rd floor. This was one of the best dinner socials we have had. The guys were exceptional, the food was great and the socializing was outstanding. We had to leave at 8:00 but the guys were still there finishing the desserts and playing cards. It was nice to hear from the counselors there, that the food we bring is by far the best they ever get and that most organizations do not include the Ladies Unit.

Our next visit will be on May 8th. Anyone wanting to join us can sign the sheet up front or contact me.

Scheduled Meetings:

Meetings are held at 2:00 p.m. the 4th Sunday of each month unless otherwise **noted**.

2019

24th March
28th April
26th May
23rd June
29th July
25th August
22nd September
27th October
24th November

December – TBD – Christmas Party

Calendar of Events:

Visit www.VVA1002.org for information on upcoming events.

May 27th – Memorial Day Parade, Newton
July – Parade in Sparta: watch for the date.

NEW MEMBERS:

“WELCOME HOME”

Gregory Corcoran

PASSINGS:

No report.

Homeless Committee (new):

Submitted by John Drinkard

In my new position as Chair of the Homeless Committee, here are some resources I have identified for the Homeless in Sussex County:

- Sussex County Emergency Services*
 - Prior to 4:30 973-383-3600
 - After 4:30 973-940-8869
- Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services
 - 973-383-8670
- Catholic Charities
 - 855-767-8387
- Community Hope
 - 973-463-9600
- Family Promise of Sussex County*
 - 973-579-1180
- Samaritan Inn*
 - 973-940-8872
- VA Homeless Hotline
 - 877-424-3838

*provides overnight or temporary shelter

I am gathering resources and building a structure for the Homeless Committee. So all comments and contributions on this topic are welcome.

John V. Drinkard
jvdrinkard3@verizon.net
973-865-0605

CONGRATULATIONS/CONCERNS:

Happy March Birthday's:
Don Schultz

MEMBERS CORNER:

No submissions.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. **Special Note: If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call (toll free 24/7) 1-800-273-8255 and tell them you are a veteran. All calls are confidential.**
2. Jackets (\$60 (summer) & \$70 (winter)); t-shirts (\$15); hats (\$10); golf shirts (short sleeve \$28; long sleeve \$33) are still available. See Owen Martin for purchases or to place an order (pre-payment for orders are appreciated)
3. Important note to families of deceased veterans, and/or requestors:

Submitted by Bob Caggiano



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It is the right of every deceased Veteran to have a Military honors team attend the graveside service, to present the Flag at no charge to the family. Honors Teams are sent out, at the expense of the US Government.

In January 2000, Congress passed legislation guaranteeing Veterans the right to at least two uniformed servicemen, a flag ceremony, and the playing of TAPS at their funeral. Unfortunately, there are not enough buglers to play TAPS, so the historic melody has been played on a CD player at many Veterans' last ceremony, or more currently on a bugle that plays Taps using an electronic insert. The volunteer organization "Bugles Across America" (a.k.a. BAA) was created to honor the service of veterans by providing Taps live by a bugler using a real instrument (such as a bugle, trumpet, cornet, or flugelhorn) at funerals or any other ceremony requiring a bugler. There are currently over 7500 volunteer buglers nationwide in all 50 states, and some overseas who stand ready to serve. BAA volunteers perform Taps as a free service.

As a Vietnam era veteran member of VVA Chapter 1002 and a BAA volunteer bugler, I am available to play for anyone who needs a bugler for Taps (or other appropriate bugle calls) for any honorable discharged veteran or related military ceremony. In the event I cannot play because of a scheduling conflict, I can generally still provide a substitute bugler so please contact me - Bob Caggiano, USAF Veteran, (973) 222-7591 (cell) or FinalTaps@gmail.com.



Editors Corner:

By Linda Skellenger (AVVA)

Please have information to be included in the April newsletter to me by Sunday, April 21st by email: skelle@ptd.net or by snail-mail to:

Linda Skellenger
174 Lewisburg Rd.
Sussex, N.J. 07461



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		President:	John Harrigan	
1 st Vice President:	John Brady		Secretary:	Carl Ohlson
2 nd Vice President:	Walt Hazelman		Chaplin:	George Burns
Treasurer:	Owen Martin		Sergeant at Arms:	Ted Andrews

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