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VVA Chapter 12 ♦ Newsletter

July/August 2016



**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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STATE COUNCIL DELEGATES

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

Mike Quilty, Alternate Delegate
Dan Higgins, Alternate Delegate

OTHER CONTACTS

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Presidents Message

As I look at other Veterans' groups, and their new leaders who take control of their organizations, it is clear that our Chapter members are not just active with us, they have taken on leadership in the VFW, American Legion, MOPH and Cooties. Do you remember when no one wanted Vietnam Veterans? Now we run every origination and are the senior veterans!

Congratulation goes to the following members. First I will start at our home base VFW Post 2226. Brother Jimmy Mack is in for his seventh year as Commander. I hope that you finally realize that you are Commander for Life! Bruce Whitver is Senior Vice Commander, John Lewis is Quartermaster, another repeater for his 12th year , Tony Corbella is Service Officer.

At our second post home VFW2179, Little Bobby Amrozewicz, nearing retirement, has kept his word and has taken on the task of Commander after serving as Jr Vice for a number of years. Angel Rodriguez, returned as Senior Vice for the third time, and Tommy Hackett for his 4th year as Quartermaster.

At Hazlet VFW Post 4303, one of our newest members John Conti starts his 6th year as Commander, Pete Allan is his Senior Vice Commander.

At the District Level, Bud Force has taken on the position as District 6 Commander, Monmouth County.

Wilbur Bishof starts his 8th year as Commander of Military Purple Hearts Post 527, Ernie DiOiro 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President Tony Corbella and Dennis Beauregard Finance Officer.

Bob Lopez is in his 5th year as Service Officer, Post 346, Neptune.

The Can Do Boys of Island X, with Commander Tommy Milmoie, and Vice Commander Bobby Lopez, continue to grow and stay active .

Chapter AVVA member Will Purcell elected for his second term as Seam Squirrel to the number one Pup tent in the State.

The new Commandant for Tinker Dorn Detachment of the Marine Corp League is Chapter member Cappy Everhard .

Just a reminder, our next meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2016 at 7:30pm please mark your calendars' and plan to attend, we will bring everyone up to date.

The Colonel



UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

The next Chapter meeting will be on Wednesday, August 1, at 7:30PM. Location is at VFW 2226, 210 Norwood Ave., Oakhurst, NJ.

(Note: Spouses and/or significant others are welcome at the meeting, and are encouraged to attend.)

Edit .Note – not both at the same time.

9/18 AO Town Hall Meeting (flyer)

9th Annual VFW 2179/ AL 515 Picnic, 8/21 (flyer)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Carole Ford, 7/2
Linda Ponzo, 7/3
Uncle Sam 7/4
Don Davison, 7/11
Dolores Beauregard, 7/27
Dan Higgins, 8/7
Rob Ford, 8/23
Perry White, 8/23
Steven Baker 8/30

Anyone born in July or August?? 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.

Health Care

A blue ribbon panel studying the future of Veterans Affairs health care is poised to recommend an overhaul to the system that would create a structure similar to the Pentagon's Tricare program, where veterans could choose to use either the VA for their care or see a network provider.

The goal, according to Commission on Care members, would be a more efficient version of the VA's current system, in which the department provides direct care to most veterans, and those who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility or who cannot get an appointment in a month offered private care.

Under the draft of the commission's final report, all veterans enrolled in VA care would choose a primary care provider at the VA or from a civilian network.

The plan would do away with the 30-day and 40-mile restrictions of the Veterans Choice program and create networks of physicians to care for former troops who prefer to see non-VA doctors.

The Commission on Care was created by Congress in 2014 under the legislation that established the Veterans Choice program. It is tasked with reviewing the VA health system and making recommendations on its future.

The panel's final report is due by the end of June but on Tuesday, commissioners met in Washington to revise a rough draft of the final.

[MILITARYTIMES](#)

Panel weighs closing all VA health care — vets' groups raise conflict of interest

That draft calls for creating a new structure, the VHA Care System, responsible for overseeing VHA facilities as well as preferred provider networks managed by contractors. An appointed board of directors would provide oversight to the entire Veterans Health Administration.

The draft calls for phasing in the new system, starting in areas where it is most needed. It also calls for giving VA the authority to close underperforming VA hospitals and clinics.

“Under this proposal, [VHA] becomes a care system, a more integrated model where every component of it is designed to deliver the best care to veterans,” commission chairwoman Nancy Schlichting said.

The report also calls for giving some veterans who received other than honorable discharges access to VA health services. Under the draft, troops who have “substantial honorable service” before they got bad paper discharges would be considered for VA health care eligibility.

The proposal also considers allowing VA to establish pilot programs that would provide veterans and spouses the option to purchase health care at VA.

The estimated costs of these reform proposals were not available on Tuesday, but commissioners tossed out figures ranging from \$100 billion to \$1 trillion over 20 years.

Schlichting said many factors contribute to cost estimates, including demand, cost savings from closures and realignments and improving information technology systems.

But, she concurred, the reforms could be pricey.

[MILITARYTIMES](#)

Vets activists gearing up for 2016 fight

“I think we all agree if we increase choice, we increase costs,” Schlichting said. “Given the level of reform we are recommending, [VA] is going to need resources.”

The department last year began a reform process known as MyVA, which aims to fix issues ranging from health care quality and access problems to information technology problems and the benefits appeals backlog.

The 14-member commission has met 12 times since last September. Its work has been contentious, with veterans organizations, the White House and the VA speaking against any proposals to expand private care for veterans at the expense of VA medical centers and clinics.

The commission will send its final report to Congress this month. Whether lawmakers will act on it remains to be seen, however. The Senate and House are considering legislative proposals to change the Veterans Choice program, ranging from expanding it to all enrolled veterans to requiring most veterans use private care.

[Follow @patriciakime](#)

Patricia Kime covers military and veterans health care and medicine for Military Times. She can be reached at pkime@militarytimes.com



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA,
INC.
NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL
559 WEST 9TH AVENUE
ROSELLE, NEW JERSEY**



07203

TOWN HALL MEETING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

**CONDUCTED BY: VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA – NEW JERSEY
STATE COUNCIL**

**HOSTED BY: UNION COUNTY CHAPTERS 688 AND 779
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**

LOCATION: VFW POST 2230, 33 S 21ST STREET, KENILWORTH, NJ 07033

****TIME: 2:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.****

**CONTACT: MICHAEL ECKSTEIN, CHAIR, AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN
COMMITTEE, NJ STATE COUNCIL CELL (201) 803-2943 EMAIL –
MRE1065@GMAIL.COM**

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**CARL PEREIRA, PRESIDENT, VVA CHAPTER 779
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**ARE YOU A VETERAN EXPOSED TOXIC SUBSTANCES DURING YOUR MILITARY
SERVICE?**

**YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MIGHT BE AT RISK OF ILLNESSES AND OF BIRTH
DEFECTS IN YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND IN FUTURE GENERATIONS
NOT YET BORN.**



AGENT ORANGE BARRELS ROTTING

**BE A PART OF THIS INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION BY THOSE FAMILIES AFFECTED BY EXPOSURE TO TOXIC
SUBSTANCES. WE HOPE THAT THEIR STORIES AND THE INPUT FROM OUR PANEL OF EXPERTS WILL GIVE YOU AN
IDEA OF THE HARDSHIPS ENDURED BY OUR CHILDREN AND BY THE PARENTS OF THEIR DAILY STRUGGLES TO COPE
WITH THE BURDENS OF ILLNESSES CAUSED BY TOXIC MILITARY EXPOSURES CONTAMINATION IN THE UNITED
STATES.**

Living with Someone with PTSD



When someone you care about is diagnosed with PTSD, it can leave you feeling overwhelmed. You might be worried about the changes in your loved one, or you might feel hurt by your loved one's distance or moods.

It's important to know that you are not alone or helpless. Your support can make all the difference in your partner, friend, or family member's recovery.

You also need to take care of yourself. Changes in family life are stressful, and taking care of yourself will make it easier to cope.

How can I help?

You may feel helpless, but there are many things you can do. Nobody expects you to have all the answers. *Here are ways you can help:*

- **[Learn as much as you can about PTSD](#)**. How PTSD affects people may help you understand what your family member is going through. The more you know, the better you and your family can handle PTSD.
- **Offer to go to doctor visits with your family member.** You can help keep track of therapy appointments and medicine, and you can be there for support.
- **Listen.** Tell your loved one you want to listen and that you also understand if he or she doesn't feel like talking.
- **Plan activities together**, like having dinner, or going for a walk. Try the [Mood Coach app](#) for ideas and scheduling help.
- **Encourage contact with family and close friends.** A support system will help your family member get through difficult and stressful times.

How can I get help?

Take care of yourself. Your loved one's PTSD symptoms can cause problems in family relationships. *If you need support you can:*

- **Try one of the tools** in [PTSD Coach Online](#). It's not just for PTSD.
- **Download the [PTSD Family Coach app](#)** featuring 24 unique tools to help you manage stress and track stress levels over time, deal with difficult thoughts and emotions you may be experiencing, and more.
- **Reach out to those who have been there.** Hear from family members (as well as Veterans and their providers) at [AboutFace](#).

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STAND DOWN

Herb, Dennis

Could you please pass this on to your contacts since Stand down will be before our State Council meeting.

Stand down in Newark will be held at JFK recreation Center in Newark, NJ on Saturday, October 8, 2016.

Anyone interested in volunteering, Tom Wojciechowicz will again be in charge of the volunteers.

Please call him on [201-460-8614](tel:201-460-8614) if you are interested in volunteering.

Thank you.

Margaret

**9TH ANNUAL PICNIC
SPONSORED BY
VFW POST 2179
AMERICAN LEGION POST 515**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 21ST, 2016
12:00 PM TO 5:00 PM**

**TICKETS ARE \$15.00 PER PERSON
CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE
TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT VFW POST 2179**

**PRICE INCLUDES FOOD – BEER – SODA – WINE
CASH BAR FOR MIXED DRINKS \$3.00
HAMBURGERS – HOT DOGS – CHICKEN – RIBS
SAUSAGE – CLAMS – SALADS
CORN ON THE COB
WATERMELON**



50 -50 DRAWINGS

DJ

MONEY WHEEL

COME ONE – COME ALL



FUN FOR ALL

Note: Rich Brandon's new address is:

6787 SR 32

Greenville, NY, 12083

(H) 518 966-8347

(He is no longer a hillbilly, he has an actual mailbox!!)

Note: BITW will now come out every other month instead of monthly.

School Education Program

Last class of 2016 was held at Howell middle School for an all day session.

The kids were great and the staff went out of their way to make the class great for us.

The brothers that worked the class were as follows.

Don Davison

Ernie Diorio

Bob Hopkins

Joe Leone

Greg Kucharewski

New class season will start in Nov. 2017

Pictures Attached



For What It's Worth



A COP PULLED OVER 5 GRANDMAS... BUT WHAT HAPPENED NEXT IS HILARIOUS!

Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a State Police officer sees a car pattering along at 22 mph. He thinks to himself, "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over.

As he approaches the car, he notices there are five elderly ladies — two in the front seat and three in the back — all wide-eyed and white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused, says to him, "Officer, I don't understand. I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly ... 22 miles an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly.

Trying to contain a chuckle, the State Police officer explains to her that 22 was the route number, not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask... Is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time," the officer asks.

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute, Officer. We just got off Route 119."

TAPS

Shore Area Vietnam Vets Called Home By The Lord

Barron, George, 65, Bayville, USN
Butler, Reginald, 75, Old Bridge, Army
Cannon, Alton, E., 70, Tinton Falls, USAF
Castles, Robert, A., 68, Lanoka Harbor, Army
Cavanaugh, John A., 73, Manchester, Army
Clansey, John, C., 68, West Caldwell
De Santoz Hamsher, Kerry 68, Army
Derosa, Anthony, 65, Long Branch, Navy
Frangos, Nickolas, 74, Army
Frank, Donald, G., 74, Point Pleasant, Army
Galloway, C. Douglas, 69, Norriton Twp., Pa, Navy
Haupt, Fred, 84, Asbury Park, SFC, Army
Hussey, John, J., 68 Rod Bank, Navy
Johnson, Frederick, H., 64, Manchester, USAF
Leahy, Brendon, 67, Asbury Park, Army
McCrea, Charles "Butch", 71, Howell, Army
Mika, James, M., 61, Navasink, USMC
Mikovits, John F., 67, Manchester, Army
Sherman, Thomas, 67, Surf City, Navy
Travis, William, 69, Middletown, USMC
Wilbert, Stanley, J., 68, Jackson, Navy
Wycoff, Donald, J., 66, Manahawkin, Navy

REST IN PEACE BROTHERS