



The Sentinel

Vol. 8 No. 1

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

March 2021

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

This has been a long time coming but we will start getting our newsletter out on a regular basis and also start our meetings up again. I have spoken to Dennis at St Francis De Sales Church and starting this Month at 2pm on Sunday March 26th we will start holding our regular monthly meetings upstairs in Boland Hall. As there are still restrictions in place, we ask that you please wear a mask when entering the building and follow all protocols that the Church has set up. We hope to see as many of you there that want to attend.

It has been a long year and we have lost some members, John (Ron) Nash, John (Jack) Ratzer, Donald Unangst and a supporter of our Chapter Joy Barta. May they all "Rest IN Peace". If anyone knows of anyone else who has passed or is in need of anything please let me know.

We are in need of someone to take over our "Homeless Veterans" program so if anyone is interested please let me know.

I have spoken to Patty Green from the Sussex Elks and she advised me that the Moving Vietnam Wall is still on schedule to come to Woodburn Park. Our Chapter has donated \$1500.00 to help offset the cost, and once it is here they will need help, from setting it up to manning it 24hours a day till it is dismantled. As further information becomes available I will let everyone know.

See you at the meeting.

John

1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Submitted by John Brady

Due to the pandemic it's been a long time since our last newsletter. Now that there is a vaccine and some of the restrictions are being eased or eliminated it looks as if it's time to try to get back to something resembling "normal".

We will be resuming our monthly meetings on the 4th Sunday of the month beginning with March 28 at 14:00 (2 P.M). Since we still have to maintain distancing it will be held in Boland Hall of the church which is accessed via the main parking lot.

We have already resumed our Vets Helping Vets meetings on Thursdays in St. Charles room which is where we used to hold our monthly meetings.

Many of us have received the vaccine either through the VA or other outlets. I know the Port Jervis clinic has been going down a list calling vets who regularly use the clinic. Since they can only do so many at a time you may have to wait to be called. In my case I knew of someone who was called and received the vaccine. I didn't get a call until 3 weeks later. Also, I know of some vets who were called a couple of weeks after me.

They are only doing vets not family members. If you have a family member you wish to get the vaccine there are other facilities available. However, if you don't have computer access I might suggest calling Senior Services in Newton. The number is 973-579-0555. Leave you name and phone number and they will call you back, usually within one day. They can make an appointment for you and I believe the vaccination is given at the Sussex County Fairgrounds. As of now I was told all the March appointments are filled so you will probably get one in April.

Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another!

Hope and pray everyone is doing well. Maybe soon we can put all this behind us and resume a normal and regular life.

John E. Brady

SERVICE OFFICER:

Submitted by Skip Kays

If you want any further information, or have any suggestions you can contact me at 973 459-9392 or at skays1@embarqmail.com.

Well, it's been a long time since we did this.

Over the past year, I have had quite a few ideas for things to write here, but . . . as usual all the other stuff that has been going on seems to get in the way. But, sitting down and writing didn't seem to happen all that much.

You know I re-watched the Ken Burns Vietnam history again, a few times to see if there was anything I missed.

Well, while it has been clear for a long time that the war was mismanaged, and we should not have been there in the first place, guess who managed to take most of the public's blame over time ?

While there were certainly enough people, "protestors," and, eventually more and more of mainstream America who were against "the War," the administration that was in charge at the time; once Johnson was out, Nixon ended most American involvement, Nixon was out, the Dems came in and cut aid to the South Vietnamese, and Carter was in, the high profile types were missing but the Vets were still there.

So, the psycho, unbalanced, hair trigger Vietnam Vet who was a time bomb waiting to go off was still there and the media kept the theory running.

Most of us at some point or another ran into this sort of attitude. From the looks in the airports and bus stations when you were in uniform, to some sort of attitude, one way or another after you were out from the public.

More on this next time.

WOMEN VETERANS:

Submitted by Walt Hazelman

Dr. Margaret Craighill: First woman doctor to receive military commission

She was also VA's first female physician

In December 1941, the United States entered the Second World War following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Women across the country signed on to help the war effort just as they had done during the First World War. One of these women was Dr. Margaret Craighill, who relinquished her duties as dean of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia to pursue military service.



Dr. Margaret Craighill

Craighill was the first woman doctor to receive a military commission. She was responsible for inspecting the "field conditions of all women in the United States Army."

She also was the women's consultant to the Surgeon General of the Army. In that role, Craighill was in charge of the Women's Health and Welfare Unit. She also created the standards for the process of WAC medical care.

First consultant on female Veterans' medical care

Following the conclusion of World War II, Craighill became one of the first consultants on female Veterans' medical care at VA, a post she was referred to by General Omar Bradley. In this new position, she worked alongside other specialists in VA hospitals.

One newspaper story mentioned that Craighill's promotion was "probably the most marked distinction that the war has brought any woman doctor in this country." This historic appointment was the first position of its kind in VA.

Her time as Chief Consultant on medical care for women Veterans was formative for women in medicine as she advocated for the expansion of female doctors in



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the then-known Veterans Administration hospitals. In November 1946, the first ten women doctors were hired to serve alongside her.

Ensured female Veteran care at highest possible standards

Serving with Craighill, these 10 trailblazing women were familiar with women’s issues, especially those encountered by female Veterans. The women doctors were selected to ensure the care of women Veterans in VA hospitals and homes across the country was always kept at the highest possible standards. In a letter to one of her female colleagues, Craighill modestly described her mission as giving “some suggestions on the care of women patients.”

She went on to write that it was a job she felt compelled to do after her experience at war.

Always invested in women’s issues, Dr. Craighill helped in the development of VA policies on the status of women. In 1951, this would become the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services.

In July 1977, Margaret Craighill, 78, died in her home at Heritage Village, Southbury, Connecticut. Her medical career and dedication to military service are a testament to her distinguished character.

Craighill’s legacy lives on today with VA maintaining a department to serve the nation’s female Veterans. Her legacy has also paved the way for future female medical professionals to serve at the highest levels of their profession.

POW/MIA:

Submitted by Bob Gilbert

No report.

AGENT ORANGE:

Submitted by Owen Martin

Go to: <https://www.caregiver.va.gov> for more complete information (see a copy of the Home Page on page 7 below).

Veterans Affairs

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Expansion Fact Sheet

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) offers enhanced clinical support for caregivers of eligible Veterans who are seriously injured. These changes are based on the new "Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) Improvements and Amendments Under the VA MISSION Act of 2018" Final Rule, RIN 2900-AQ48, effective October 1, 2020.

These changes include:

- Expanding eligibility for the PCAFC
- Offering legal and financial services for designated Primary Family Caregivers of eligible Veterans in 2021
- Making other changes affecting program eligibility and VA's evaluation of PCAFC applications

Who qualifies: Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury (including a serious illness) in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service on or after September 11, 2001, or on or before May 7, 1975.

Who should consider applying?

1. A Veteran who has a single or combined service-connected disability rating of 70% or more, **and**
2. Who is in need of in-person personal care services for a minimum of six (6) continuous months based on either:
 - An inability to perform an activity of daily living (ADL) each time the activity is performed, OR
 - A need for supervision, protection, or instruction, which means a functional impairment that directly impacts his/her ability to maintain his/her personal safety, **on a daily basis.**

PCAFC Application

Veterans and caregivers may apply for the PCAFC in two ways:

1. Visit www.caregiver.va.gov and download VA Form 10-10CG. Mail the completed form to:

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Health Eligibility Center
2957 Clairmont Road, NE, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30329-1647

2. Apply in person through a local Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) Caregiver Support Coordinator.

Your Caregiver Support Coordinator can provide you with more information. They will help you every step of the way! There are seven eligibility requirements. Please see the Eligibility Fact Sheet for details.

Major Expansion Changes — Big Wins for Veterans!

Previously: VA required a connection between the need for personal care services and the qualifying serious injury.

Expansion Changes: In addition to expanding to pre-1975 era Veterans, the enhanced PCAFC eliminates the need for a connection between personal care services and the qualifying serious injury. It also redefines serious injury to now include any service-connected disability — regardless of whether it resulted from an injury, illness or disease. Both these changes greatly expand program eligibility.

Why This is Important: In most cases, the eligible Veteran has multiple conditions that may warrant a need for personal care services. A Veteran's needs may be so complex that it can be difficult to determine what specific condition, out of many, causes the need for personal care services.

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Benefits

- Education and training
- Access to healthcare insurance (If caregiver is otherwise uninsured)
- Mental health counseling
- Financial stipend
- Respite care
- Wellness contact
- Travel and per diem compensation (when traveling for a Veteran's VA healthcare appointment)

How to Contact a Caregiver Support Coordinator

- Calling the Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274- Toll free – Expanded Hours (Monday-

Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET; Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET)

- Using the Caregiver Support Coordinator locator tool at www.caregiver.va.gov/support/New

COMMUNITY/PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Submitted by Lou Storms

No report.

Scheduled Meetings:

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

2021

28th March

25th April

23rd May

27th June

25th July

22nd August

26th September

24th October

28th November

TBD December – Maybe Christmas Party

Calendar of Events:

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

NEW MEMBERS:

“WELCOME HOME”

PASSINGS:

No report. Please see From the Minefield.

Homeless Committee (new):

We are in need of someone to take over this committee so if you or you know of someone who is interested please contact John Harrigan.

This information is a reprint from February 2020 as
Submitted by John Drinkard

Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services

Sussex County



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Homeless Outreach

Bridgeway provides outreach, support, and case management services to adult Sussex County residents who are homeless, or are at risk of becoming homeless and who have a mental illness. Bridgeway does not own or manage housing facilities. Homeless Outreach Services Include:

- Hands-on assistance with finding both temporary and permanent housing
- Outreach to engage service recipients into mental health, substance abuse, medical, vocational, and social services
- Assistance with obtaining public assistance and/or social security benefits
- Comprehensive assessment of individual needs and psychiatric rehabilitation goals
- Individualized treatment planning to assist the service recipient with reaching his/her goals
- Ongoing case management and supportive counseling to assist the service recipient to live within the community
- Teaching and assisting with daily living skills, including medication management and education, budgeting, personal hygiene, and housekeeping
- Transportation to initial appointments and linkage to other available transportation options

Contact: Patricia Packard
 Homeless Outreach Services
 93 Stickles Pond Rd.
 Newton, NJ 07860

Phone: (973) 383-8670 Fax: (973) 383-8676

CONGRATULATIONS/CONCERNS:

To all those that celebrated a birthday, an anniversary, or welcomed a new member into their family this past year – CONGRATULATIONS!

To all those that have lost family or friends this past year we send our deepest SYMPATHIES.

To all those that became ill this past year – GLAD YOU ARE BETTER!

To all those that are not feeling themselves yet – GET WELL SOON!

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
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 March newsletter to me by Sunday, April 18th by email: skelle@ptd.net or by snail-mail to:

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

SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS



Announcement Expansion Phase 1 is Here!

Eligibility for the **Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC)** has expanded.

Review the fact sheets to learn more about the expansion.

- [Caregivers PCAFC - Application Process Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Caregivers PCAFC - Expansion Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Caregivers PCAFC - Eligibility Criteria Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Caregivers PCAFC - Legacy Participant Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Caregivers PCAFC - Monthly Stipend Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

Fact Sheets available in [Spanish & Tagalog/Filipino](#).

There are several steps in the application process that determine if you qualify.

How do I apply for this program?

You and the Veteran will need to apply together and participate in an application process to determine if you're eligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. You'll both need to sign and date the application and answer all questions for your role.

You can apply online right now.

[Apply for the program of comprehensive caregiver assistance](#)

You can also apply:

By mail

Fill out a joint Application for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (VA Form 10-10CG).

[**Download VA Form 10-10CG \(PDF\)**](#)

Mail the form and any supporting documents to:

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers
Health Eligibility Center

2957 Clairmont Road NE, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30329-1647

In person

Bring your completed VA Form 10-10CG to your local [VA medical center's](#) Caregiver Support Coordinator. To find the name of your local coordinator, you can:

Go to the VA [Caregiver Support Coordinator directory](#), or
Contact the [Caregiver Support Line](#) at 855-260-3274

Do not send medical records along with the application. VA will follow up after the application is received. If you need assistance with completing the application or would like to check the status of your 1010CG application please call 1-855-488-8440, option 3.

Be sure to check back for updates or [subscribe](#) to receive email updates and information about VA Caregiver Support Program services.