



# BACK IN THE WORLD

**Volume 29• Issue 9—10**

**VVA Chapter 12 ♦ Newsletter**

**September/October 2019**



**Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12**

**PO Box 276, Allenhurst, NJ 07711**

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## NOTES FROM CHAPTER 12

- ⇒ Please remember our fellow Chapter members, and their families in your prayers, as they continue to face very serious medical conditions
- ⇒ Please visit and “like” our Facebook page, “Vietnam Veterans NJ Shore Area Chapter 12” for info on what we are doing.
- ⇒ Please visit our CHAPTER WEBSITE—[www.vvchapter12.net](http://www.vvchapter12.net) for photo albums, news letter archives, Chapter history.
- ⇒ Anyone needing a ride to the VA, please contact Ernie Dorio for assistance. If you are able to provide transportation, please let Ernie know so the same people aren’t doing it all the time.
- ⇒ If you are looking for a fellow vet that you lost track of, or someone that you served with that might have information you need, please send it to us and we’ll put it in the monthly newsletter.
- ⇒ Check this link out if you need help with an appeal, or know a Vet that does. Keep it moving, pass it on to other Vets you know: <http://www.vetsprobono.org/index.htm>
- ⇒ Anyone wanting to submit an article, picture , or story, please send it to [VVA12p@verizon.net](mailto:VVA12p@verizon.net) or [nivva12@gmail.com](mailto:nivva12@gmail.com) by the 25th of each month. Anything received after that will be placed in the following month’s newsletter. (Make sure your article can be verified.
- ⇒ We have been informed that in lieu of specific items to send to troops on deployment, gift cards to the PX would be appreciated. The troops can get almost anything in the PX, but could use help via gift card. This is also a money and effort saver on our part. Donations to the PX gift care fund are being accepted. **We are also switching from actual food to gift cards for our food bank as this will better serve our veterans in need.**



## **VA working to resolve Veterans legacy appeals by 2022**

October 29, 2019, 01:42:00 PM

### **VA finalizes plan to resolve legacy appeals by the end of 2022**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it has finalized its plan for resolving legacy appeals across the department and expects to complete the remaining legacy appeals by the end of calendar year (CY) 2022. Legacy appeals are claims for which the VA provided notice of decision prior to implementation of the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 (AMA) and the claimant has not elected to participate in the AMA process.

In response to the growing number of legacy appeals, VA implemented AMA as of Feb. 19, giving Veterans more choice and control over the process of their appeals.

"AMA has been in place for almost a year and we are finally starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel for the resolution of legacy appeals," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "I am proud of the work being done here at VA to make sure those Veterans waiting the longest for a decision get their results."

This past year, VA decreased the number of pending legacy appeals despite receiving thousands of new appeals. VA is successfully reducing legacy appeals while also working AMA appeals to ensure Veterans receive their decisions in a timely manner.

VA's three administrations -- Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Health Administration and National Cemetery Administration -- plan to resolve their non-remand legacy appeals by the end of CY 2020. The Board of Veterans' Appeals will continue to work appeals from the administrations and plans to resolve its legacy appeals inventory by the end of December 2022.

Resolving legacy appeals aligns with VA's strategic plan to modernize IT systems and processes and supports VA's mission to provide exceptional customer service to Veterans and their families. Veterans who are waiting for their decisions are encouraged to check the status of their appeal via the appeals status tracker.

For more information about the appeals process, visit [VA decision reviews and appeals](#).

###

### **Disclaimer of Hyperlinks**

The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Veterans Affairs of the linked web sites, or the information, products or services contained therein. For other than authorized VA activities, the Department does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations. All links are provided with the intent of meeting the mission of the Department and the VA website. Please let us know about existing external links which you believe are inappropriate and about specific additional external links which you believe ought to be included by emailing [newmedia@va.gov](mailto:newmedia@va.gov).

Source: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/includes/viewPDF.cfm?id=5345>





## Veteran's & Family Resource Fair

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019 • 1 PM – 5PM**

**Long Branch Public Library 328 Broadway  
Long Branch, NJ 07740**

### Free Services for Veterans:

- VA Healthcare enrollment
- Benefits Assistance
- Mental Health
- Training & Education
- VA Burial Benefits
- Housing Assistance
- VSO Onsite for Claims Assistance
- Free resources...spouses & family members welcomed

### Sponsored by:



Long Branch Public Library

**Bring a copy of your DD214, if you don't have a copy,  
we will be able to assist with you with obtaining a certified copy**  
Please contact **Victor Alvarado** or **Rekishia McMillan** in advance

Victor Alvarado  
Veterans Career Coach  
Monmouth County One-Stop Career Center  
60 Taylor Avenue  
Neptune, NJ 07753  
(732) 775-1566  
Victor.Alvarado@dol.nj.gov

Rekishia L. McMillan  
Veterans Career Coach  
Ocean County One-Stop Career Center  
1027 Hooper Avenue Building 6  
Toms River, NJ 08753  
(732) 286-5616  
Rekishia.McMillan@dol.nj.gov

David Perez, MSW  
Social Work & Diversity Services Manager  
Long Branch Public Library  
328 Broadway  
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(732) 222-3900 x2290  
Dperez.lbpl@gmail.com

## “Killed In Action” Flag

To those who are not familiar with the “Killed in Action” flag, it symbolizes those in the military who gave the ultimate sacrifice. The flag was made an official flag of New Jersey by the NJ General Assembly 17—0 and signed by the Governor. It proudly should fly throughout New Jersey with the United States and POW/MIA flags in tandem. It definitely should be displayed in all New Jersey municipalities. With that said I recently was committed to have the four professional New Jersey teams fly this flag outside of their stadiums showing respect for those who died for our country. After much disappointment, frustration and persistence, I am happy to say that MetLife stadium, where the Giants and Jets call home, finally approved my request. I recently went to a Giant pre-season game and saw the KIA flag flying high on it own flag pole right next to the American flag. It was a very emotional and proud feeling.

There is now more good news to report. I have been able to get the New Jersey Devils to agree to fly the KIA flag outside their arena. A senior vice president confirmed my request to fly the flag and if it's not up yet, it will be up before the season officially begins.

I now have three teams proudly flying the flag at their venues and I am now pursuing one more team that plays in New Jersey and that's the Red Bulls. Wish me luck, I will keep you posted.

In Patriotism,

Allen Saltzman (VVA Chapter 12)



# **"Play HOOK-e" From PTSD**

By Greg Kucharewski

November and December is a great time to catch some deals on fishing equipment. Many local tackle dealers are receiving new inventory for 2020 and are offering discounts in their stores. Visit the VVA Chapter 12 website <https://www.vvachapter12.net> and click on the Play HOOK-e page to sign up for the Play HOOK-e News. You will have access to tackle dealers that offer veteran discounts and no cost activities for veterans and their families. We are also posting links to restaurant discounts on Veterans Day and luncheons honoring veterans. See Recent Happenings>>/Newsletter.

Our website also provides information about VVA Chapter 12 Officers, Reports/Committees, Recent Happenings, Cremains Project, School Speakers Program, Recent Newsletters, Chapter History, and Community Outreach Programs.



[View our Website](https://www.vvachapter12.net)

## **Project Healing Waters Fly Tying Workshop**

Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:00 am till noon at the Spring Lake Heights Community Center, 901 Ocean Rd., Spring Lake Heights, NJ. Veterans will have a chance to learn how to tie the grasshopper fly.

Below: Laszlo Hasko, received his dream fishing trip to Montana compliments of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Jersey Shore Chapter. All expenses were paid by PHWFF and Laszlo had a chance to go fly fishing on a pontoon boat. He caught 5 species of fish that qualified him for a "Grand Slam" and he also caught the biggest fish.

If you would like to be considered for a free fishing trip to Montana and enjoy a fishing experience like Laszlo's start attending PHWFF free monthly workshops. Workshops are the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month, but be sure to check their Facebook page for updates and trips.





### **Fall Striper Fishing Instruction Beach and Breakfast**

During November and December, Veteran Play HOOK-e fishing workshops will be held on the beach and continued at the Princess Maria Diner. Bring your own equipment or you are welcome to use our Play HOOK-e loaner rods and reels. Check our Play HOOK-e page on the VVA Chapter 12 website for dates and locations. We also have members from various saltwater fishing clubs that volunteered to assist our veterans fishing on the beach. Door prizes and printed handouts are no cost to veterans and family members.



### **Jenna's Reel Warriors**

Play HOOK-e is helping Capt. Scott Policastro this fall by scheduling striped bass fishing trips out of the Atlantic Highlands. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> two veterans attending Toms River Library Veteran Forum signed up to fish for striped bass in November. If you are a combat veteran and would like to fish during November, please phone Greg at 732-786-



9278 to reserve your space on Jenna's Reel Warriors. Capt. Scott does a great job of putting fish in the boat for our veterans.



**Jenna's Reel Warriors October 19<sup>th</sup> fishing out of Atlantic Highlands**

### **Brick High School Fishing Club Supports Veterans**

Brick High School Fishing Club students are conducting a fundraising effort with our "Play HOOK-e Go Fishing" magnets. We met with Tim Brennan, Health & Physical Education Teacher to discuss their high school fishing program and he told us why students wanted to help. Tim said, "Students care about our veterans and plan to assist with VVA 12's veteran fishing program." Members of VVA Chapter 12 School Speakers program will visit their school on November 13, 2019 to teach students about the Vietnam War.



### **Mi-Jo Party Boat NJ HOFNOD**

During November, our Play HOOK-e veterans will help NJ "Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" (HOFNOD) by assisting youngsters fishing on the Mi-Jo Party Boat, Atlantic Highlands. Liz Jackson, DEP NJ HOFNOD Fish and Wildlife invited our veterans to join them on their fall fishing trip.



Combat veteran Frank Hodroski, Play HOOK-e volunteer helps a NJ HOFNOD youngster attach a metal lure for jigging striped bass. Photo courtesy of David Mor-mack.

### **Honoring Women Veterans at LZ-64**

Veteran women had a chance to experience flying in small aircraft, discuss aviation and enjoy a BBQ. Pilots Tom Davis, and Mike Grossman flew our Honored Veteran Women over Monmouth County and Rich Thomas, LZ 64 gave a tour of aircraft on the ground. Funds from previous LZ-64 events help make the event a great success. Women attending exchanged contact information and made new friendships. Christine said, "You guys truly are Comrades in Arms and never neglect anyone. I think I can say for the females who attended, being recognized as Veteran's, is very special for us and not frequently occasioned."

Susie Guckin from Peaceful Warrior Meditation spoke to veterans about methods to limit PTSD and gave each veteran a copy of her book Camouflaged Heart. Grill master's John and Pete did a great job of serving home-made burgers and hot dogs. We thank the Alan and Rita Monmouth Jet Center for hosting the event and airport personnel for assisting with safety at the airfield.

We also thank our Play HOOK-e volunteers Dawn Thomas, Eileen Smith, Cathy K, Heather and Connie for soliciting prizes and keeping us organized.

Rich Thomas is already working on another gathering for veterans at LZ-64. We will pass information along as soon as meeting date is finalized.





**LZ-Fly-In Honoring Women Veterans October 23<sup>rd</sup>**



**2<sup>nd</sup> from L Guest Speaker Susie Guckin**  
**See more pictures at [VVACHapter12.net](http://VVACHapter12.net)**



## HOLIDAY PARTY

Our annual Holiday Party will be held on **Saturday, DECEMBER 7** at **VFW Post 2179 in Middletown**. The party will run from **3:00 PM to 6:00 PM**.

As always, we will have a **Sweets and Treats** table. The best **home made** dessert will win a prize, but all desserts are welcome. We will also have games and prizes and, for the grand-children, a special surprise guest!!!

In the past, we've asked that you call to let us know if you're coming, but we no longer need for you to respond, as we pretty much have this down pat and always have enough food.

If you have any questions or need directions, give me a call at (732) 531-2574. Looking forward to seeing all of you.

Bob Hopkins, Santa's Helper

**PLEASE NOTE: There will not be a General Membership meeting on Wednesday, December 4. The Holiday Party serves as the General Membership meeting for the month of December.**

POST

**BENEFITS  
ASSISTANCE  
SERVICE**

**ISSUED DATE: JULY 25, 2019**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Starting January 1, 2020, the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security, in cooperation with the Department of Veterans Affairs, will be expanding in-store military exchange and commissary shopping privileges, as well as Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) resale facility use at military installations in the 50 states and U.S. territories to the following groups:

- Purple Heart recipients
- Former Prisoners of War
- All Veterans with service-connected disabilities ratings of 0 to 90% (100% already have this benefit)
- Caregivers or family caregivers registered as the primary caregiver for a Veteran in the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

**SUGGESTED SCRIPT FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES**

"Starting January 1, 2020, in-store military exchange and commissary shopping privileges, as well as MWR resale facility use at military installations in the 50 states and U.S. territories will be expanded to additional groups of individuals. Unfortunately, there is no additional information available at this time, but the Department of Defense, in coordination with the VA, will publish official information later this summer." \*

\* If appropriate for the conversation, PCR can provide the inquirer with the groups that will be granted access with the upcoming changes.

Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

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## Flame Out Walk – September 22

**Our first walk to bring awareness and raise money for research into treatment modalities to combat RSD/CRPS was an unqualified success! We reached our goal of \$10,000 and the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association is the recipient of the funds.**

**Over 80 walkers were greeted with blue skies and Chapter members helped to set up and break down at the end of the walk. Judy got to spend some time with her "uncles", who have supported her and our family for the 20 years she's had the disease. The Chapter also provided the seed money that allowed us to address the initial cost of the event.**

**We want to thank all of the Chapter members who donated and/or walked. Without your help our job would have been far more difficult. Your support over the years has been a source of comfort, especially during the dark days when the disease was at its worst. Although Judy continues to suffer the daily effects of RSD she has moved on with her life, to the point that she has returned to college and is planning her wedding. Your prayers and emotional support have played a significant part in her ability to function at a level that many, who have this insidious disease, cannot. We are truly grateful to all of you.**

**God Bless,  
Linda and Bob**



## VVA Chapter 12 Happenings



4 Chaplain's Awards presented to John Rahill on Sunday Oct 20th



**Jimmy Mack received a humanitarian award from the Chapel of Four Chaplains on Sunday, October 20th.**

**(file photo)**

## PTSD Research Quarterly VOLUME 30/NO. 2, 2019

The latest issue of the *PTSD Research Quarterly* is now available:

### [PTSD and TBI Comorbidity](#)

Jasmeet P. Hayes, PhD

Brain injury, has often been a concern in PTSD patients, most notably from shell shock to TBI during WW I and OEF/OIF/OND, respectively, but also from domestic violence and motor vehicle accidents. This issue of the Research Quarterly provides a comprehensive and thoughtful guide to the literature on PTSD and comorbid mild TBI.

Sign up for the [PTSD Monthly Update](#) or [other publications](#) from the National Center for PTSD.

ARE YOU TREATING U.S. VETERANS WITH PTSD?

**WE CAN HELP.**



Our [PTSD Consultation Program](#) can answer questions about assessment, treatment, medications, and more: [PTSDconsult@va.gov](mailto:PTSDconsult@va.gov) or 866-948-7880.



JERSEY SHORE

FALL FASHION SHOW

HEADLINER NIGHTCLUB

SAT, NOV 23 2019 4:00 PM—

SUN, NOV 24 2019 2:00 AM

Percentage of proceeds to

VVA Chapter 12

**ARE YOU HAVING AN  
ACTIVITY IN THE PTSD  
UNIT ?**

**BOTTLED WATER, SODA, PAPER  
PLATES, 16 OZ. PLASTIC CUPS  
AND  
PLASTIC UTENSILS ARE NEEDED**





I hope all my brothers and sisters are all well and are enjoying the summer, the guitar classes have been going well, we have 10 Vets in the class and they are doing good . We still have one guitar left for a Vet who would like to join the class, for info contact Dennis Champ 723-239-6288 or email me at [dsclnc1953@gmail.com](mailto:dsclnc1953@gmail.com).

The Vet band has been very busy this summer, some of the gigs we played were Lakehurst joint base, Earle Naval base, Honor Night at Lakehurst, just to name a few , we will also be playing at the Lake-wood Vet center picnic , hope to see you all there. Enjoy the rest of the summer, take care and be will. Keep on pickin.

Dennis Champ



**New Pilot VAVS Program  
“Courtesy Transportation”**

**VA New Jersey Health Care System is seeking contributions of Uber  
gift cards for Veterans  
in need of transportation assistance.**

**Uber services will be offered to Veterans that are not eligible for  
beneficiary travel and have no means of transportation home.**

**Uber gift cards are now available nationwide.**

**Any questions regarding this special need, please contact Voluntary  
Service at  
908-604-5814.**

# **TAPS**

## **Shore Area Vietnam Vets Called Home By The Lord**

**ANGELO A. GUADANGNO,JR ARMY**

**ANTHONY TONY ASFOR AMRM**

**HERBERT BILL W. GENNE JR. MARINES**

**KENNETH DUNNING MARINES**

**RICHARD J. SARRAF AIR FORCE**

**BERNARD D. MATYSCZAK COAST GUARD**

**STEPHE BEIHL NAVY**

**RICHARD W. O'HARE NAVY**

**JOHN P. OLESEN NAVY**

**THOMAS RUNG ARMY**

**FRANK M. BAGDON ARMY**

**JOHN AMBROSE ZENGEL ARMY**

**RICHARD BRIAN JACKSON ARMY**

**RICHARD I. RIDER**

**JOHN THOMAS COBERG ARMY**

**JOHN DOESSNER ARMY**

**CHARLWS KENNIS ARMY**

**EDWARD ROBERT DALY ARMY**

**ROBERT JACKSON ARMY**

**PRISCO CINELLI ARMY**

**CSM WAYNE LEE BURNER ARMY**