



BACK IN THE WORLD

Volume 33• Issue 2

VVA Chapter 12 ♦ Newsletter

Fall 2025

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING



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.’

OFFICERS AND E-BOARD

| | | | |
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| Dennis Champ | 2 nd Vice President | 732-859-4644 | dsclnc1953@gmail.com |
| Tony Corbella | Secretary | 732-640-1967 | paddybella@optonline.net |
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| Greg Kucharewski | Play Hook-e, | 732-429-9637 | gkuchaeews@aol.com |
| Joe Leone | PTSD | 609-577-7848 | anamvet1969@gmail.com |
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STATE COUNCIL DELEGATES

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Michael Berman, Delegate | 732 674-5564 | Phil Pesano, Alternate Delegate | 848-480-3689 |
| Carmelo Burgaretta, Delegate | 732 758-9775 | Tony Corbella, Alternate Delegate | 732 273-8770 |
| Dan Higgins, Delegate | 732 581-9715 | | |

OTHER CONTACTS

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--|
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| Carol Force | BITW editor | 908-601-3132 | caf7881@gmail.com |



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 for photo albums, news letter archives, Chapter history.
- ⇒ Anyone needing a ride to the VA, please contact Ernie Diorio 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 or 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.**

President's Message



First Dolores and I hope you have a great Thanksgiving and wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and Happy New Year.

Let us review our Chapter events for the past 4 months, Chapter had sent 10 members to the National convention. On September 19, Chapter Color Guard presented the color at VFW 2179 annual POW/MIA service. September 19, we had supported and attended the annual Gold Star Mother and family annual lunch at VFW 2179.

Al Mattia as already started canvassing at local Shop Rites and looking to bring in more than last year \$22000.00. Please answer his calls for help, and enjoy a day of bonding with your chapter brother or sisters.

Oct 6 chapter members and wives had attended the D.A.R annual lunch where Thank you Veterans Lunch in Holmdel. At this event Ernie, Gough and Dave Drummond were honor for out Chapter Cremains program.

On October 26th I was able to attend my 60th High School Graduation where I had the honor to introduce Ted Seneskii, my fellow class member who was a POW from 1972-1973., I had presented him with several Chapter 12 gifts, but more importantly we wish him a Welcome Home. He was in tears.

As always, the month of November our Traveling School Program has been in high gear visiting a number school though out Monmouth and Ocean County.

Nov 8, a few members attended the annual field of flags in Middletown

Veterans Day, Chapter members will attend and place a wreath at the memorial in Holmdel

Donated \$500.00 to VFW 2179 and Auxiliary for their annual community Breakfast with Santa.

After two years of construction on Nov 2 Bob Siemer, myself, were given the honor to raise the Flags at the first of Middletown Veterans home. Chapter member Dennis Zilsinki and wife unveil the township monument to honor our Global War on Terror Veterans.

This was followed by the Township annual Veterans Day parade, with Commander Dan Butler from VFW Post 2179 a two tour Iraq Marine sniper was honor as Grand Marshall.

Chapter members will attend the Veterans Day service and present a wreath at the memorial on Veterans Day.

Feb 1, 2026 Four Chaplains LOH Awards: We will be partnering with VFW Post 2179, VVA State Council, a light lunch buffet.

Congratulations to Ernie for another outstanding Veterans Day service in Manalapan to honor the township veterans with an outstanding breakfast.

If you are a LOH and wish to nominate some please contact me at vva12p@verizon before Dec 25,2025. buffet will be serviced.

Next Chapter 12 monthly meeting will be on Dec 3 at 4pm, light buffet will be served, if you are unable to attend, have a great holiday my brothers and sisters.

**The
Colonel**

Veteran Housing Dedicated in Middletown Township

Project Overview

- The facility is located at **45 Leonardville Road**, in the Campbell's Junction / Belford section of Middletown.
- It's a 22,000 sq ft, three-story building offering **12 residential units** dedicated to U.S. military veterans.
- The first floor is parking; second and third floors each have six units plus activity room/lounge amenities.
- Designed with features such as roomy communal spaces, vintage patriotic flagpoles (American, MIA/KIA), and a memorial stone at the entrance.

Dedication & Opening

- The ribbon-cutting and public "grand opening" took place on **Sunday, November 2, 2025**.
- The ceremony coincided with Middletown's 68th Annual Veterans Day Parade, marking a day of community patriotism.
- While the building is completed, as of the opening no veterans had yet moved in because the federal list used for approval was temporarily frozen due to the federal government shutdown.

Purpose & Significance

- The project is a way for the township to "give back" to veterans for their service. As the mayor put it: *"Our veterans have given their all to grant us the freedoms we have today. This affordable housing complex is just a small token of our everlasting appreciation."*
- Middletown has a substantial veterans population (over 2,900 in the township) and there was a recognized need for affordable housing dedicated to veterans.
- The township, plus the Housing Authority and other housing partners, led the effort.

Veteran Housing Dedicated in Middletown Township



Bob Siemer and the Colonel raising the flags at ribbon cutting on Middletown Veterans Home.



Missing in America Project

**BG William C Doyle Veterans Cemetery
Wrightstown, NJ**

OCTOBER 2025

The October 16 event was another culmination of work by many chapter members all pulling together to ensure the honorable interment of 20 veterans and 3 family members at BG William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery.

This latest group of veterans came from 7 participating funeral homes who have graciously cooperated with our Creains Committee.

Those family members present were presented with the American Flag as well as the one carnation placed upon the urn at the ceremony. Identified family members from around the country as well as those present were sent photos and plot locations of their loved ones.

To date, we have interred 204 Veterans, 23 family, and returned 32 to their family for a total of 236.

For the Committee

Rich Gough



Cremation Ceremony October 9, 2025



AVVA member helping out at the internment of forgotten Veterans. Lori Cannon and Carol S.

Cremation Ceremony October 9, 2025



Cremation Ceremony October 9, 2025



Jersey Coast Shark Anglers and VVA Chapter 12 Play Hook-e Fishing Trip



QUILTS OF VALOR

Quilts of Valor Recipients: first George Pinero and second Anthony Richardson, presented by the Quilts of Valor Ladies



A donation of \$1,000.00 from Jean Ann Pesano, president of the Brick Rotary Club accepted by Dennis Champ for the VVA.





Guitar for Vets

I am still giving classes at the Manalapan community center on Tuesdays at 11:30. The center is located at 114 Rt 33 in Manalapan. I also have classes at the Jackson Elks on East Veterans highway in Jackson on Thursday at 10:00. **If you are interested in playing guitar and you don't have one I do have guitars to lend.** If you are a veteran and you play or have played any instrument and you like jam with other vets come on out we'd love see you there. My name is Dennis Champ, you can email me or call me at 732-239-6288. Or email me at dsclnc1953@gmail.com.

Stay busy my brothers and sisters and be well.



Five Ways to Manage Stress.

Submitted by:

Edwin Coons

- 1. Go for a walk. Move your body a little bit. Find a place you like and walk. It can change your entire mood.**
- 2. Visualize on something positive. Maybe think about a good time you've had or a favorite place you like.**
- 3. Engage in Mindfulness. Find Calm. Take a pause and find something pleasant to think about.**
- 4. Talk to a friend or loved one. Make some buddy calls. Those people you haven't talked to in a long time.**
- 5. Put on some music. Listen to the music you like. Ronettes, Temptations, Brook Benton. Whatever you enjoy to relieve the stress.**

Please don't forget the VA apps. Most importantly the "VA " app. It's everything you need right there available to you on your cell phone. Health Records, VA Payments, Veterans ID Card, New Claim Updates, Shot Records, etc.....

Also helpful are the AIM and the PTSD Coach apps. Check them out.



Who Are My Donations Helping?

VVA Pickup is a service of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). We'll pickup your used clothes and household goods at your convenience and use them to support programs that address the concerns and needs of all veterans.

Donation Items Needed



Clothing & Shoes

All types and sizes for all ages



Baby Items

Boys and girls clothing, toys, and more



Kitchenware

Dishes, glassware, utensils, pots, pans and general kitchen items



Small Appliances

Microwaves, toasters, blenders, coffeemakers



Electronics

Cameras, phones, stereos, radios and other small electronics



Small Furniture

Chairs, tables, beds, and dressers

How It Works



Schedule a Pickup

Call 888-518-VETS or
<https://wapickup.org>

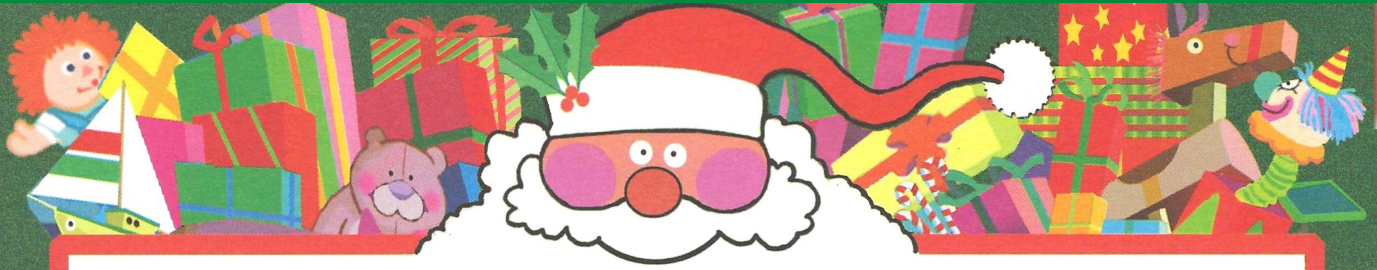


Gather Your Donations

Gather your unwanted clothes or household goods and leave in a visible location.



Place Items Outside



All Welcome!!

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Sponsored by VFW Post 2179 and Auxiliary

Sunday, December 14th

*VFW Post 2179
1 Veterans Lane
Port Monmouth, NJ*

Doors open at 9 A.M

Santa visits from 9:30 AM until Noon

Magic Show, Mr. Magico, at 11:00

Adults \$10.00 per person

Children 12 and under are free

Children newborn to 12 years old will receive a gift from Santa and a stocking!

(Child must be present to receive a gift or stocking)

Bring your cameras



VFW Post 2179 and Auxiliary

PEARL HARBOR



VFW Post 2179 and Auxiliary cordially invite you to join us in our service to honor those who died during the attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Date: Friday, December 5, 2025

Place: VFW Post 2179

1 Veterans Lane, Port Monmouth, NJ

Time: 7:30 PM

VFW Post 2179 and Auxiliary

Four Chaplains



Courtesy of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School

VFW Post 2179 and Auxiliary cordially invite you to join us in our service to honor the Four Chaplains and the men of the Dorchester who gave their lives during World War II.

Date: February 1, 2026

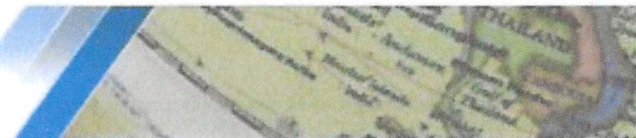
Place: VFW Post 2179

1 Veterans Lane, Port Monmouth, NJ

Time: 2:00 PM



OUR MISSING



[DPAA Home](#) / [Families](#) / [Search Our Missing](#)

ACCOUNTING FOR OUR MISSING PERSONNEL

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing families and the nation. Within this mission, we search for missing personnel from World War II (WWII), the Korean War, the Gulf Wars, and other recent conflicts. Our research and operational missions include coordination with our partners around the world.

After careful deliberation and for statistical accounting purposes, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has established the start date for the past conflict personnel accounting mission. This date marks the establishment of the United States Military Laboratory, Thailand (CIL-THAI) and reflects the start of the continuous lineage of past conflict personnel accounting. Definitizing this start date ensures the total number of accounted-for personnel reported to families, the Congress, and the public is accurate. This start date will be integrated into DPAA's internal databases and reflected on the public-facing website and publication of accurate figures.

At present, less than 81,000 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars. Out of the less than 81,000 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are located in the Indo-Pacific (including but not limited to aircraft water losses, etc.).

OUR MISSING FACTS & FIGURES

TOTAL MISSING

Missing as of 1973

84608

Accounted For**

3681

Unaccounted For

80927 -11

WWII

Missing as of 1973

73684

Accounted For**

1850

Unaccounted For

71834 -10

A-1
A/F-2
N-1

KOREAN WAR

Missing as of 1973

8157

Accounted For**

762

Unaccounted For

7395

VIETNAM WAR

Missing as of 1973*

2633

Accounted For**

1067

Unaccounted For

COLD WAR

Missing as of 1973

128

Accounted For**

2

Unaccounted For

GULF WAR

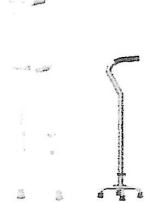
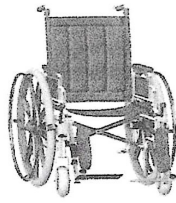
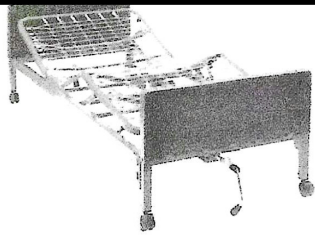
Missing as of 1973

6

Accounted For**

0

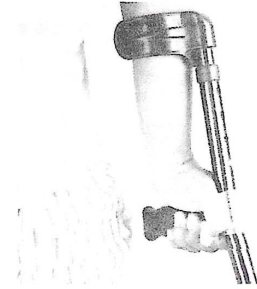
Unaccounted For



Do You Need Medical Equipment? Maybe We Can Help



CALL, TEXT, or EMAIL
(732) 440-8289 or
sjmedequip@gmail.com



Please include

- your name,
- what you are looking for, and
- how we can reach you.

A volunteer will get back to you within a few days.

It won't cost you anything.

We collect donated walkers, crutches, canes, hospital beds, wheelchairs, knee braces, tub benches, commodes, adult diapers and other new and used medical equipment and give it away for **free**. ***We want to help you.***

The **Saint James Eatontown**
Medical Equipment Ministry
is located at

Saint James Episcopal Church
69 Broad Street, Eatontown, NJ
Open Wednesday 11 - 3
And Saturday 1st Noon



ECS  **NJ**
EPISCOPAL
COMMUNITY
SERVICES
THE DIOCESE
of NEW JERSEY

We operate with the generous support of **Episcopal Community Services of NJ** and are affiliated with the Pluckemin Medical Equipment Ministry.
If you have items to donate, we would love to hear from you, too. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your donations are tax deductible.

Appointment check-in and Request Travel Pay with your Smartphone

Yes, eligible Veterans can **file for travel pay reimbursement as part of the smartphone check-in process** at participating VA health facilities. This option is available through the VA's online system or the **VA: Health and Benefits app**.

How It works

- **Receive a Text:** If you've opted into the VA's text-based appointment reminders (VEText), you will receive a text message 45 minutes before your appointment time with a link to start the check-in process.
- **On-site Requirement:** You must be physically on-site at the VA facility to use the mobile check-in option.
- **File During Check-in:** During the check-in process, if you are eligible for travel reimbursement and meet specific criteria, you will be prompted with the option to file a claim.
- **Eligibility Criteria for In-Check-in Filing:** To file your claim during smartphone check-in, all of the following must be true:
 - You traveled in your own vehicle.
 - You traveled from your home address.
 - You are claiming only mileage and no other expenses.
- **Direct Deposit:** You must have direct deposit set up to receive your reimbursement quickly. Payments are often processed within 72 hours.

General eligibility for travel Pay

To be generally eligible for travel pay, you typically must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Have a service-connected disability rating of 30% or more.
- Be traveling for treatment of a service-connected condition.
- Receive a VA pension or have an income below the maximum annual VA pension rate.
- Be traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension (C&P) exam.



VETERAN URGENT CARE RESOURCES



Veterans enrolled in VA health care can use over 4,000 urgent care locations.

Care is available to treat non-life threatening conditions.

When to choose VA urgent care:

- If you're a Veteran enrolled in VA health care, and
- You received care at a VA or in-network provider sometime in the past 24 months.
- VA and in-network urgent care providers can meet many of your health care needs. They may be able to provide some diagnostic tests, like certain blood and urine tests.
- You can often get care for minor illnesses or injuries much faster than in an emergency room.



When using urgent care at a community provider:

You can also show the card on your mobile device.

What do to when you arrive at a community urgent care provider:

- Confirm that the provider is in VA's network. If you go to an out-of-network urgent care provider, you may have to pay for the full cost of care.
- Show your VA Health Identification Card and fill out the provider's intake form.
- Tell the provider you want to use your VA urgent care benefit. Show the provider your urgent care assistance card if requested.



Do you need help using your VA urgent care benefits?

Call 888-901-6609 if the provider is in Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C., or any of these states:

- AL, AR, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, VA, VI, VT, WI, or WV.

Call 866-620-2071 if the provider is in any of these states:

- AK, AS, AZ, CA, CO, GU, HI, ID, MP, MT, NM, NV, OR, TX, UT, WA, or WY.

Your region listed on the card to check your eligibility.



**DOWNLOAD VA URGENT CARE BILLING
INFORMATION CARD**

<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/docs/programs/OCC-Billing-Information-Card.pdf>



**FIND VA-APPROVED PROVIDERS
AND PHARMACIES**

<https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

**Family members are not
authorized to use urgent
care benefits.**

**CHECK YOUR
ELIGIBILITY!**

**FIRST, CALL:
1-800-MyVA411
(1-800-698-2411)
(TTY: 711).**

SELECT:

OPTION 1

THEN

OPTION 3

AND THEN

OPTION 1



Choosing VA means getting everything you need in one spot. Learn more about VA urgent care, eligibility requirements and examples of urgent care services by visiting VA's dedicated urgent care benefit page at <https://www.va.gov/resources/getting-urgent-care-at-va-or-in-network-community-providers/>.

Have Questions? 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) is always the right number.

For more information, visit <https://www.va.gov>.



National Purple Heart Hall of Honor

ENROLLMENT

Thank you for your interest in the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor. We are pleased to provide you with information regarding *enrollment* in the *Roll of Honor* database. This database provides information about each Purple Heart recipient's story and it can include photographs and scanned documents which have been provided to us that help enrich/enhance his or her record.

The Hall of Honor is the nation's *sole* repository dedicated to the preservation and collection of the stories of Purple Heart recipients. The mission of the Hall of Honor is to collect, preserve and share the stories of Purple Heart recipients in all branches of service and for all conflicts for which the award has been available.

Enrollment Documentation

To enroll a Purple Heart recipient in the Roll of Honor, please submit the following information:

[Enrollment Form \(pdf\)](#)

- Verification of receipt of Purple Heart Medal
- Please submit a copy of one or more of the following:
 - DD-214 (or DD-215 update)
 - WD AGO 53-55 (WWII)
 - General Orders or Permanent Orders (awarding the Purple Heart)
 - Purple Heart Certificate or other supporting documentation as appropriate.
 -

To obtain a copy of the necessary documentation, please contact the [National Personnel Records Center](#) or by phone at 314-801-0800. You must complete the standard Form 180 (SF180) in order to obtain military records.

Supporting Documents

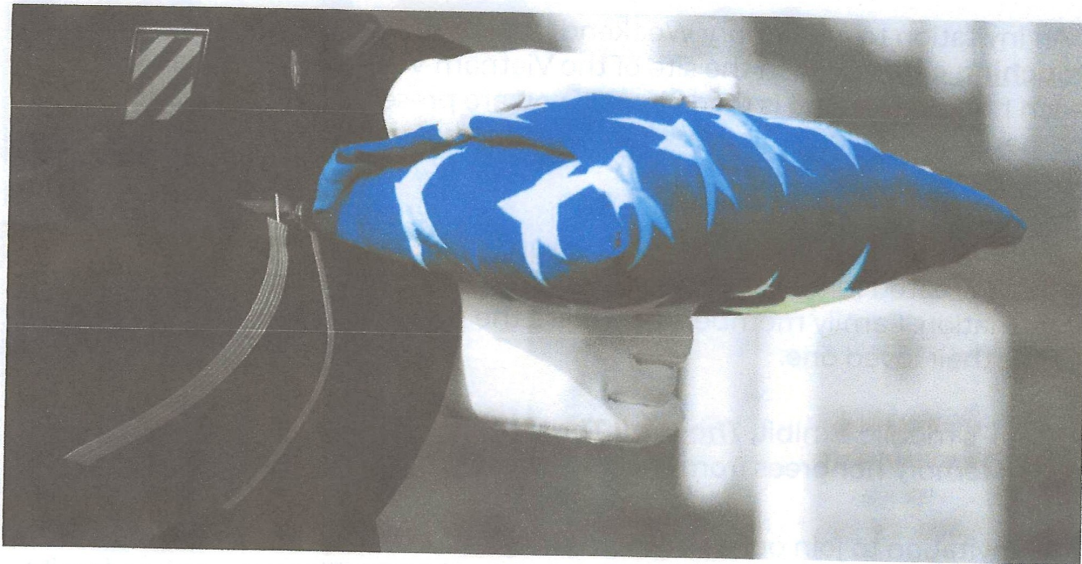
We are also collecting photographs of each recipient as well as a short narrative describing how the recipient was wounded or killed. We can accept additional materials such as letters, newspaper articles and pictures that contribute to the recipient's Purple Heart story.

We look forward to receiving the enrollment application and supporting documents, which will be added to our collection.

Again, thank you. We appreciate your support and assistance as we continue to build the nation's first comprehensive database of Purple Heart recipients.

In Memory Program

About In Memory



What is In Memory?

Since the Vietnam War ended, thousands of Vietnam veterans have suffered due to Agent Orange exposure, PTSD and other illnesses as a result of their service. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) believes all those who served in Vietnam should be honored and remembered for their service. The *In Memory* program enables the families and friends of those who came home and later died the opportunity to have them be forever memorialized.

The plaque on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site in Washington, D.C. that honors these veterans was dedicated in 2004 and reads: *In Memory of the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service. We honor and remember their sacrifice.*

In Memory was created in 1993 by the group – Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. VVMF began managing the program and hosting the ceremony in 1999. More than 6,500 veterans have been added to the *In Memory* Honor Roll since the program began. To see all the honorees, please visit the [In Memory Honor Roll](http://www.vvmf.org/honor-roll/). www.vvmf.org/honor-roll/

What is Included?

Having a veteran honored includes:

- An invitation to *In Memory* Weekend in Washington, D.C., which **includes a touching ceremony** on the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial where each honoree's name is read aloud. If you are present, you may read the name. Each applicant also receives a printed personal **tribute certificate** with their veteran's photo(s).
- As part of the **In Memory Honor Roll**, an online personal remembrance page is created for each honoree with their photo and biographical information. Family members can share the page and leave remembrances about their loved one.
- VVMF's mobile exhibit, **The Wall That Heals**, includes the digital photos of all *In Memory* honorees from the state where the exhibit is on display.
- An invitation to join our **Facebook group: In Memory – Families of Vietnam Veterans lost to Agent Orange and PTSD**. The group gives family and friends an online community to connect and share their stories.

Free Handyman Services for Seniors

WE DO SMALL JOBS TO HELP KEEP HOMES SAFE!

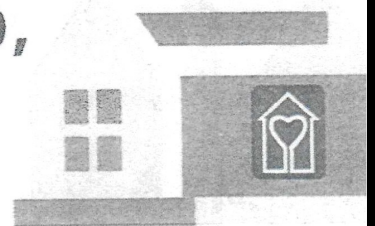
Reliable volunteer services include: minor carpentry, plumbing, and electrical repairs. Moving boxes, hanging shades, organizing garages, light bulb changes, filter changes, smoke alarm checks, changing of locks, etc.

Sorry, we can not help with any:

- Aesthetic improvements
- Painting
- Roof issues
- Ladder work
- Repairs behind walls
- Large yard care
- Repairs on homes up for sale or apartments



If you need help,
please call
732-505-2273.



caregivervolunteers.org



New 988 Veterans Crisis Hotline: VA announced veterans now have the option to **Dial 988 then Press 1** to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis assistance. “During a crisis, every second counts,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This new, shorter number makes it easier for veterans and those who care about them to reach life-saving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care.” While [Dial 988 then Press 1](#) is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number, 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, remains available, and individuals can make contact via chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or by texting 838255.

Chapter needs to recruit AVVA members to carrier on our Legacy.



ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
8917 Colesville Rd • Silver Spring • MD • 20910 www.avva.org

NEW MEMBER:

State/Chapter: 12 At-Large? ☐
Name: _____ Phone: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Email: _____

RENEWAL:

Membership #, if known: _____ State/Chapter: _____ At-Large? ☐
Name: _____ Email: _____
Mailing Address: _____

DUES

☐ Annual Membership \$20 ☐ Life Membership Full payment \$100
☐ Life Member Time Payment Option: \$25 down / \$25 monthly until paid in full

VVA Dual Membership:

☐ Life Membership: \$50

PAYMENT METHOD

DO NOT SEND CASH

☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Discover ☐ American Express
Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____
Card holder's signature: _____

Make your check payable to **AVVA**

Remit this application and payment to:

AVVA • PO Box 49029 • Baltimore • MD • 21297-4929

Agent Orange Zone

Filing a VA claim for disability compensation

Disability compensation benefits are a monthly, tax-free payment to Veterans who were injured, sustained a long-term illness or experienced a worsening medical condition during their military service.

In addition to compensating Veterans whose disabilities incurred while serving in the military, Veterans may also be granted compensation for specific post-service medical conditions that arose because of their military service. Known as presumptive disabilities, these conditions may not have arisen in service but may be granted as service-connected because its occurrence can be linked directly to military service.

VA recently added new medical conditions to a growing list of presumptive disabilities, which you can view [here](#). These conditions can be presumed to have occurred because of an exposure to Agent Orange, ionizing radiation, and service in the Gulf War.

How to file a claim for disability compensation

The COVID-19 pandemic has not halted the claims process. Veterans can still file claims, and VA is still processing them. VA recommends filing a claim online, but it can still be done in person or through the mail. To get started, visit the [VA disability compensation webpage](#) and follow the steps listed below.

Step One: Prepare documents before starting your application

Gather any [evidence](#), documentation and/or required forms that support your claim before beginning your application. This might include:

- A completed [Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits Form \(VA Form 21-526EZ\)](#),
- Private medical records related to your condition, and/or
- Military personnel records

You must include both the required and (if necessary) supplementary documents or your application will be voided. In some cases, you may need to turn in [one or more forms](#) to support your claim.

Step Two: File your claim

There are three ways to file a claim: online, in person (with a VA representative, or with a Veterans Service Organization) or through the mail. Online applications are simple and easy to complete. You can access the application by visiting the [Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits webpage](#), then sign into your VA.gov account (or create a new account at the [ID.me website](#)). You can save your progress online for up to one year before the application expires.

If you do not have access to a computer or internet device, VA also accepts printed disability claim applications that can be filed either in person or through the mail. In person applications can be submitted to your local VA regional office. Visit [VA.gov/find-locations](#) to find a VA regional office in your state. If you wish to mail your application, please do so by sending it to the following address:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Claims Intake Center
PO Box 4444
Janesville, WI 53547-4444

Step Three: VA will review your claim and notify you of its decision

VA [may require a few months](#) to make a decision on claim applications. The time it takes to review your application depends on three factors:

- The type of claim filed
- How many injuries or disabilities claimed and how complex they are, and/or
- [How long it takes VA to collect additional evidence](#) needed to decide your claim. This evidence may include service treatment records, service personnel records, private and federal treatment records, and [compensation and pension exams](#).

Once your disability claim application has been reviewed and all required documentation has been received, VA will decide on your claim and send you a notification letter of its decision. The notification letter will include specific details regarding the decisions made on your claim. You can expect to receive your notification letter 7 to 10 business days after a decision is made. Please contact a [VA call center](#) if it does not arrive within this period.

Step Four: After you receive a decision

You may ask for a second review if you are not satisfied with VA's decision. Veterans who filed a claim on or after February 19, 2019, may choose from three application review options. The first, a [Supplemental Claim](#), allows you to add new and relevant evidence (that VA doesn't already have). The second, a [Higher-Level Review](#), asks for a senior reviewer to examine your case. This option does not allow you to edit or add to your current application. And lastly, a [Board Appeal](#) requests a Veterans Law Judge with the Board of Veterans' Appeals to review your application.

If you have any questions or concerns before, during or after submitting a request to have your decision reviewed, please visit the [VA Decision Reviews and Appeals website](#).

For more information

Life comes with plenty of challenges, but ensuring the wellbeing of you and your family should not be one of them. Visit [VA.gov](#) to learn more about VA benefits and services.

If you wish to learn more about the claims process, visit the [Vantage Point](#) blog platform to keep up to date on disability claims and benefit eligibility requirements.

For more general information on the VA disability compensation and the process, [click here](#). For more on eligibility, [click here](#). You can also watch this [video series](#) produced by the Office of Information and Technology (OIT).

To request additional help filing a disability claim, learn more about [accredited representatives](#) or contact a VA regional office near you to speak with a counselor by calling 800-827-1000.



**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.**