



Vol. 32 Issue 02

Veteran's News that needs to be Read

SUMMER 2022



IN MEMORIAM

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

VVA #20
John w. Colburn

VVA #72
Juan Ramos
Thomas O'Brien

Former Region II Director
Herbert W. Worthington

Former VVA National Secretary, Vice President & President
Thomas Corey

"Magnified and sanctified be the great name of God throughout the world which He hath created according to His will. May He establish His kingdom during the days of your life and during the life of all the house of Israel, speedily, yea, soon; and say ye, Amen."

—From *The Mourner's Kaddish*

"God our Father, your power brings us to birth, your providence guides our lives, and by your command, we return to dust. Lord, those who die still live in your presence, their lives change but do not end. I pray in hope for my family, relatives, and friends, and for all the dead known to you alone..."

"O God, forgive our living and our dead, those who are present among us and those who are absent, our young and our old, our males and our females. O God, whoever You keep alive, keep him alive in Islam, and whoever You cause to die, cause him to die with faith. O God, do not deprive us of the reward and do not cause us to go astray after this. O God, forgive him and have mercy on him, keep him safe and sound and forgive him, honor his rest and ease his entrance; wash him with water and snow and hail, and cleanse him of sin as a white garment is cleansed of dirt. O God, give him a home better than his home and a family better than his family. O God, admit him to Paradise and protect him from the torment of the grave and the torment of Hell-fire; make his grave spacious and fill it with light."

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Please forward your deceased members with photo, obituary, cause of death to:

Secretary@nyvietnamvets.org

membership@vva.org

Lin4456@man.xom

Rev. Phil Salois at National

Prayer for the Deceased





VVA-NYSC Meeting Dates 2022
Sept. 23, 24

On-Line INTERCHANGE is the Bimonthly publication of the VVA-NYSC. Comments and contributions are encouraged and can be sent to: **VVAINTERCHANGE@AOL.COM**
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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of this organization. Individuals with different viewpoints and opinions are invited to submit them to the VVA-NYSC by the **deadline**. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, grammar and reject any libelous or obscene material.

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President's Report

Ned D. Foote

I cannot believe summer is almost over. Many chapters do not meet during summer, so I do not have allot to report as things are noticeably quiet. We did have our elections in June with a good turnout. John Rowan is our new Southern District Director and taken over Government Affairs. Our Joe Ingino is still in Stoney Brook, and we hope he gets better. The BOD and me thank all for your support over the years.

We do have allot going on with the Toxic Exposure stuff that has turned into Republicans vs. Democrats. You will see where Veterans stand. More on this subject in this newsletter.

On the National seen, that is also noticeably quiet. Much has to do with new computer system as the old system is incredibly old and no longer works to our needs. Unfortunately, many bumps with new system especially with emails. It is getting better, but communication still needs allot of work from top down and bottom up. Communication is a two-way street and sure would like that to happen in NY. Seems like or it is like, I am sending stuff out and do not here anything back.

Examples, we still have chapters delinquent on reports they must do. I sent last email before July 15th dead-line but still have chapters not complying. You are on your own as I cannot help. We are shutting down Chapter 896. Forty-three members have transferred to at-large. We have tried to get someone to step up but no did.

So that is about it as we go into Fall and winter as VVA will get more active. Our Leadership Conference will be over with, and I hope some new energy comes out of it.

Also, our September 24th meeting will feature President Jack McManus attending and he will bring us up to date on the National front. So, let us have a great turnout.

Secretary's Report

Francisco Muñiz III

Sorry, that I missed the June, Election's VVA-NYSC meeting. My children wanted to get together since the death of my wife to be with me, since I was never there during Father's Day.

I want to thank the delegates for the vote of confidence in re-electing me to my position as Secretary for the last 17 years! I will continue to do my best in fulfilling the responsibilities of this position and in keeping the President in line!

I am back thanks to the support from my Chapter, State Council, and delegates of this great organization. I have returned to be active in the Vet2Vet Peer Support group in my area.

In the next FALL Edition-VVANYSC Interchange, we will have reports on the seminars that our delegates attended and made reports. Many new seminars and they are thinking of continuing the Leadership Conference in 2024! Stay tuned for further information.

Elections were held and all incumbents got re-elected. Thanks for your support. A new amendment was added to our By-Laws—copy will follow in next edition.

Editor's Note: There is a reward for information of the whereabouts of individual from page 26! Seen it in Postal Office.



New York Vietnam Veterans Foundation

We provide grants to Vietnam Veterans of America-New York State Council, (VVA-NYSC) a veteran's service organization that advocates for legislation at the State and Federal level of government to provide housing, education, health and mental care services to veterans and their families.

We provide funding for VVA-NYSC Veteran's Service Officer program that assist veterans with their military disability compensation and pension claims from the Veterans

Administration.

We advocate for better Federal and State veteran's benefits and veteran preferences in government employment. VVA Chapters within New York State, assist widows, widowers, and orphans of our veterans. The organization organizes programs that enrich the lives of Vietnam veterans, as well as veterans from past, current wars, and their families.

We have an active Agent Orange committee that helps Vietnam veterans receive up to date information on prostate cancer, diabetes, and other chemically-related diseases.

We have an updated database of agencies that provide:

- Listings of Veteran Job Fairs offered by county or veteran service organizations;
- Counseling for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD);
- Outreach programs that support returning veterans' reentry into civilian life;

For disabled veterans, this can be even more difficult than a tour of duty.

We do this all year long, but without your gift and the gifts of other supporters, nothing can be done to help those that are so deserving of it. However, we have much more to accomplish.

We, the New York Vietnam Veterans Foundation, have a mission to keep advocating for and helping these veterans. We ask you to join us in our mission to provide assistance, guidance, training, and education to all veterans of past, present, and future military conflicts.

So let us continue to work together to ensure our national heroes receive everything that they are entitled to receive for their sacrifice and service to our nation.

President Francisco Muñiz III

Vice President Ned D. Foote

Treasurer Grant T. Coates

Secretary Nick Valenti

Directors Sam Hall

Stan May

You can send your tax deductible donation, to the extent allowed by law, directly to the Foundation at NY Vietnam Veterans Foundation, 48 March Lane, Westbury, NY 11590-6302.

NOTE: The Foundation has lost its fundraising contract and is in need of funds to support our Service Officer's Program. Please send donation to the above address.

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Update on COVID-19 booster shots

In case you missed it: COVID is still around but in different forms!

The world has built up a lot of immunity in the nine months since the Omicron variant of the [novel coronavirus](#) became dominant, driving a record wave of infections.

That immunity from vaccines and past infection is helping to keep down hospitalizations and deaths even as Omicron's offspring—a succession of sub variants—have become dominant, one after the other.

Now the virus is trying to find a way around our antibodies. A new subvariant, BA.4.6, is beginning to out-compete its predecessor, BA.5. Its advantages include a particular mutation to the spike protein, the part of the virus that helps it to grab onto and infect our cells.

We've seen this R346T mutation before. And every time it's appeared, it's been associated with forms of the SARS-CoV-2 pathogen with an increased ability to dodge our antibodies. A quality epidemiologists call "[immune escape.](#)" If BA.4.6 becomes dominant, it could reverse the encouraging trend we've seen in most countries in recent weeks toward fewer infections, fewer hospitalizations, fewer deaths.

It's a reminder that the novel coronavirus is a living, evolving thing. As we adapt to it, it adapts to us.

BA.4.6 warrants close attention. It's the seventh major subvariant of Omicron, which first appeared in Africa back in November. It spread fast, outcompeting and replacing the previous major variant, Delta. Epidemiologists have described Omicron and its subvariants as the most contagious respiratory viruses they've ever seen.

Omicron is four times as transmissible as Delta but [half as lethal](#).

The Omicron-specific boosters that Pfizer and Moderna are developing for their messenger-RNA vaccines, and which U.S. regulators are on track to approve in coming weeks, should still work at least somewhat against BA.4.6.



Staying positive doesn't mean you have to be happy all the time. It means that even on hard days you know that there are better ones coming.

VVA NATIONAL**Pact Act: Good, if Imperfect, Bill****Jack McManus—National President**

During the hustle and bustle of the politicians and celebrities lining up to support comprehensive legislation to address the long-term military toxic exposure issue, some of the intent of the original House bill had been traded away.

To be certain, The Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022 is a good bill that will address a few lingering issues affecting Vietnam veterans with Agent Orange presumptive conditions, particularly for hypertension and MGUS.

But VVA had been pushing to include more language to cover a broader interpretation of presumed coverage for Navy and Marine veterans who were exposed in the offshore waters of Vietnam. It is our position (with strong grassroots support) that any veteran who served in the Vietnam theater of combat operations was exposed and should be eligible for coverage. This will remain a VVA priority if it is excluded from the final PACT Act. This effects up to 300,000 Vietnam War veterans and their families, so we are not giving up.

The PACT Act will do great things for the post-9/11 veterans in addressing burn pit issues. We are grateful that we could influence the direction of the bill to provide care first and determine the cause later. We don't like the provisions that empower the VA Secretary with sole authority to determine who and what conditions are presumptive for military toxic exposure. We have been burned by changing political winds, and veterans and their families are still without care and compensation for medical conditions incurred during military service.

We remain firmly committed to advocating for Persian Gulf War veterans and subsequent generations of veterans who have Gulf War Syndrome. We will continue to fight to ensure these illnesses are recognized so that these veterans receive health care without the resistance we encountered with Agent Orange.



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Western District Report

Bill Paton

VVA Chapters #20, #77, #193, #268, #459, #865, #978

After the April State Meeting My Wife Lori and I followed Jay Buck to the Jamestown Chapter 865. We attended their meeting and elections. I had the honor of swearing in their officers for the next two years. The following Saturday after a game of "Where's Chapter 193", in Warsaw, I attended their meeting. Again after their election I had the honor of swearing in the Officers.

On Monday, I journeyed to Lockport to attend Chapter 268s Meeting. It had a great turnout for the meeting and election. It was again my honor to swear in their officers for two year terms.

One of the great privileges was attending my own Chapter 77s meeting and elections. After I swore everyone in, our President Tom Thompson swore me in as First Vice President of my Chapter.

It has stuck with me that the words at the end "So Help Me God" continue to stay in my mind as I see some of the chaos that is going on in the world today. I'll just leave it at that!

For those that have interest in the National Cemetery at Pembroke. The VA and New York State have come up with solutions to the intersection where the deadly accident happened last September. The list is long and will solve the problem and does not include a roundabout. Everyone has their own opinion of the exclusion of the roundabout. Once again I'll leave it to you!

On a personal note. I am proud of the fact that my wife and partner, Lori, was elected as President of the New York State AVVA. She seems to have quite a bit of work to do according to her Region 2 Director!

If you should have any questions or would like to give me some information for this column please reach me at blpaton36@gmail.com or call 716-208-5211.

VVA Chapter #77 Report

Tom Thompson—President

Summer is here and it feels great, but unpredictable. Our Chivetta's BBQ fund raiser was a great success and we sold 480 dinners. Thank you to all the members that braved the wind and rain conditions to make it a success. The Orange Blossom crew brought in a record collection May 28th at the Niagara Produce location. Thanks to all.

Both the Memorial Day service at the Renaissance Bridge by the Tonawanda's United Veteran's Council on the May 29th and Memorial Day Service by VVA Chapter 77 at the Buffalo Naval Park Vietnam Monument on the May 30th were well attended and had beautiful weather.

The joint venture fund raise, by VVA77 and Legion264 at the Gateway Dance June 11th was a FLOP due to the very low crowd attendance. Thanks to the members from both groups for their hard work. In contrast the Fill the Helmet joint fundraiser June 25th was a great success even though we cut it short by an hour

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due to extreme heat. Thanks to all.

VVA Chapter #77 has decided not to participate in the 2022 Canal Fest activities. We might attend next year if all decisions and conditions are favorable. Please see the attached flyer for information about the Car Show at Niawanda Park September 4th.

The AVVA Chapter 77 has announced that they are now fully New York State accredited and incorporated. Lori Paton their President is accepting membership applications. These can be obtained at the chapter on Wed. and Sat. mornings from 9:00 am till 12:30 pm. Lori Paton has also been promoted to NYS AVVA President. Congratulations.

There will be NO member meetings in July or August. The VVA Chapter #77 BOD will convene at 5:00 pm both months third Thursday's.

The Chapter. 77 food pantry continues to be busy doling food and gift cards to sixty plus veterans and their families. We received a \$20,000.00 check from Valor WNY for the pantry use given to them due to the disbursement of funds caused by the closing of VFW 2940.

Sadly since our last newsletter the Chapter has lost several members and the spouse of our chapter treasurer. Rest in peace.

VVA Chapter #77 Calendar of Events 2022

September 8 Car Show Niawanda Park Sponsored by VVA #77 & Post 264 8-4 PM

More to come, Golf outing and more events to be scheduled.

Eastern District Report

Sam Hall

VVA Chapters #8, #49, #79, #140, #333, #541, #869

VVA Chapter #333 Report

Roy Tschudy

Heather Staskiel, Attorney

If you have recently received a the VA on your Agent Orange the long fight with the department. Before you decide whether, you will want to be sure disability rating and the effective date correct



favorable decision from claim, you may think that ment of veterans affairs is er or not to appeal the de- that the VA got both the

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Perhaps the most complicated issue when it comes to Agent Orange exposure and herbicide exposure-related claims is the special effective date rules (found in 38 C.F.R. 3.816) that apply to some veterans as a result of the *Nehmer v. US Department of Veterans Affairs* class-action lawsuit filed in the northern district of California (n.d. cal) by the national veterans legal services program. The Nehmer class action came after the Agent Orange Act was passed by Congress.

Note that the special Nehmer effective dates apply only to Vietnam veterans who served on the landmass of republic of Vietnam or its inland waterways (hopefully soon to include Da Nang Harbor).

Nehmer Class Action Lawsuit

Before we discuss the Nehmer adjudication and the resulting effective date rules, it is helpful to understand the basics of the Nehmer class action itself. The lawsuit was filed in 1986 (and certified as a class action in 1987) by a group of claimants to challenge a VA regulation from 1985 which gave presumptive status to chloracne claims only.

In 1989, the court invalidated the 1985 regulation, finding that the regulation required too high of a standard of proof and required the VA to undergo new rule-making standards.

Two years later, in 1991, the parties reached a final stipulation as to how the VA would treat class members if the VA added new regulations in the future which added diseases to the presumptive list.

The stipulation and order provided that whenever the VA adds a covered herbicide disease to the presumptive list, the VA must identify all veterans (and their surviving spouse and dependents) who were previously denied service connection for that disease or had claims pending in district court between September 25, 1985 and the publication date of the regulation adding the disease.

Once such veterans are identified, the VA must re-decide their claims based on the new regulation and allow the veterans to submit new evidence. If service connection is granted, the VA must apply the special effective date rules that were also part of the 1991 Nehmer court orders and stipulation and grant dependency and indemnity compensation.

Since 1991, the VA has been required to do mass reviews of claims for the following:

Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and soft-tissue sarcoma (1991)

Hodgkin's disease

Respiratory cancers

Multiple myeloma (1994)

Agent orange and prostate cancer (1996)

Type 2 diabetes (2001)

Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (2003)

Primary AL amyloidosis (2009)

Ischemic heart disease

Parkinson's disease

B-cell leukemias (2010)

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Denied VA Benefits? Get a Free Case Evaluation How Effective Dates Normally Work

Because the effective date rules under Nehmer are so different, here is a quick refresher as to how effective dates are normally treated.

Under normal VA rules, the effective date for an award under a so-called “liberalizing regulation” (meaning, a new regulation that makes it easier for a veteran to get benefits) cannot be earlier than the effective date of that liberalizing regulation (usually, the publication date).

For example, a veteran’s claim was denied in 1994, and he reopens the claim on May 1, 2002. On October 1, 2002, the VA adopts a new regulation that is helpful to the veteran and his claim is granted due to that new regulation.

Even though the veteran reopened his claim in May, the effective date for his claim cannot be earlier than October 1, 2002, because that is the effective date of the liberalizing regulation.

Special Nehmer Effective Date Rules

Under the special Nehmer effective date rules, it does not matter, thanks to the Nehmer class members, when the VA adds a disease to the presumptive list. The rule is that the effective date is the latter of the date the VA received the initial disability claims for an Agent Orange-related disease (“initial claim” means the first claim filed after or pending on September 25, 1985) or the date the Agent Orange-related disease was first diagnosed.

In simplest terms, if a veteran filed his first claim for an Agent Orange-related disease before the VA added the disease to the presumptive list, the effective date of his claim (provided the disease eventually gets added to the list) is usually the date of the first claim.

As mentioned above, even if a disease has not been added to the presumptive list yet, such as renal cancer, a veteran should file a claim with the veterans administration now in order to preserve the earliest possible effective date under these special Nehmer rules.

It is also important to note some other particularities about Nehmer claims. In regards to the initial claim, that claim does not need to have mentioned Agent Orange specifically in order to qualify as the “initial claim” under the Nehmer code of federal regulations rules.

In addition, if the veteran dies before his initial claim is re-decided under Nehmer, the VA still must decide the claim and pay, in priority order, his spouse, children of any age, his parents, or his estate.

Another tricky Nehmer rule relates to evidence of an Agent Orange-related disease that is in a veteran’s C-File. For example, say a veteran filed a claim for service connection for arthritis in 1995. While that claim was still pending, a 1998 diagnosis of ischemic heart disease was added to the veteran’s C-File.

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If the arthritis claim became final in 1999, and the veteran filed a new claim for ischemic heart disease in 2010 when the disease was added to the presumptive list, the effective date for his claim goes back to 1998, even though the initial claim was not for ischemic heart disease. What matters in this situation is that the diagnosis was part of the veteran's C-File from 1998 onward.

As you can see, these special Nehmer effective date rules are very technical and are something that the U.S. department of veterans affairs gets wrong a lot, so it is always important to double-check the effective date of such a claim to make sure it is correct or you may be missing out on many years of retroactive benefits.

The Honoring Our PACT Act was rejected by the Senate by a 55-42 vote.

S. 3373, The Honoring Our PACT Act, unexpectedly failed to pass on the Senate floor by a 55-42 vote yesterday (U.S. Senate: U.S. Senate Roll Call Votes 117th Congress - 2nd Session) 60 votes were needed, to avoid another delay in the bill becoming law. The bipartisan bill was voted unanimously out of the Senate with an 88-14 vote in early June, and by a 342-88 vote in the House. However, this was not the case as Senators who had previously voted against and for the bill objected to how the money connected to the measure (about \$300 billion over 10 years) would be accounted for in the regular appropriations process.

VVA will continue working with members of Congress, VSO and MOS to ensure that the Honoring Our PACT Act becomes law in the 117th Congress and we thank Chairman Takano, Chairman Tester and members of both parties who supported passage of this bi-partisian legislation.

Roll call Vote 272 - See how your members voted

YEAs ---55

Baldwin (D-WI)

Bennet (D-CO)

Blumenthal (D-CT)

Booker (D-NJ)

Boozman (R-AR)

Brown (D-OH)

Cantwell (D-WA)

Capito (R-WV)

Cardin (D-MD)

Carper (D-DE)

Casey (D-PA)

Collins (R-ME)

Coons (D-DE)

Cortez Masto (D-NV)

Duckworth (D-IL)

Durbin (D-IL)

Feinstein (D-CA)

Gillibrand (D-NY)

Graham (R-SC)

Grassley (R-IA)

Hassan (D-NH)

Heinrich (D-NM)

Hickenlooper (D-CO)

Hirono (D-HI)

Hoeven (R-ND)

Kaine (D-VA)

Kelly (D-AZ)

King (I-ME)

Klobuchar (D-MN)

Lujan (D-NM)

Markey (D-MA)

Menendez (D-NJ)

Merkley (D-OR)

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Moran (R-KS)
 Murphy (D-CT)
 Murray (D-WA)
 Ossoff (D-GA)
 Padilla (D-CA)
 Peters (D-MI)
 Reed (D-RI)
 Rosen (D-NV)
 Rubio (R-FL)
 Sanders (I-VT)
 Schatz (D-HI)
 Shaheen (D-NH)
 Sinema (D-AZ)
 Smith (D-MN)
 Stabenow (D-MI)
 Tester (D-MT)
 Van Hollen (D-MD)
 Warner (D-VA)
 Warnock (D-GA)
 Warren (D-MA)
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NAYs ---42

Barrasso (R-WY)
 Blackburn (R-TN)
 Blunt (R-MO)
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 Cotton (R-AR)
 Cramer (R-ND)
 Crapo (R-ID)
 Cruz (R-TX)
 Daines (R-MT)
 Ernst (R-IA)
 Fischer (R-NE)

Hagerty (R-TN)
 Hawley (R-MO)
 Hyde-Smith (R-MS)
 Inhofe (R-OK)
 Johnson (R-WI)
 Kennedy (R-LA)
 Lankford (R-OK)
 Lee (R-UT)
 Lummis (R-WY)
 Marshall (R-KS)
 McConnell (R-KY)
 Paul (R-KY)
 Portman (R-OH)
 Risch (R-ID)
 Romney (R-UT)
 Rounds (R-SD)
 Sasse (R-NE)
 Schumer (D-NY)
 Scott (R-FL)
 Scott (R-SC)
 Shelby (R-AL)
 Sullivan (R-AK)
 Thune (R-SD)
 Tillis (R-NC)
 Toomey (R-PA)
 Tuberville (R-AL)
 Wicker (R-MS)
 Young (R-IN)

Not Voting - 3

Leahy (D-VT)
 Manchin (D-WV)
 Murkowski (R-AK)

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VVA Applauds Sen. Schumer for Last-minute Vote in Attempt to Save PACT Act of 2022

(Washington, D.C.) — “We applaud Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) for yesterday’s valiant act of leadership in changing his vote from a Yay to a Nay, a procedure that allows him to bring the bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act back on the floor for a future vote,” said Jack McManus, National President, Vietnam Veterans of America. “A staunch supporter of the act, Schumer saw the writing on the wall and acted to save the legislation from its death in this 117th Congress. “For over 40 years, VVA has steadfastly advocated for veterans living with chronic illnesses resulting from toxic exposures during their service,” said McManus. “All veterans have earned the comprehensive relief this bill offered them. For our aging Vietnam veterans, the speedy passage of this bill was especially important, not only for the care they desperately need, but as an acknowledgement the country recognizes and honors their service.

To the 41 naysayers in the Senate and to those who did not vote, we note your cowardice and urge caution by sharing with you the words of our nation’s first president: “The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”



VVA is relieved that at last the Senate has voted to pass the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act.

Now we must ensure that the law is implemented in a quick and just manner.

For over 40 years, VVA has steadfastly advocated for veterans living with chronic illnesses resulting from toxic exposures during their service. With your support we will continue to advocate for long-overdue action and assistance for veterans.

Together we will make certain veterans of all generations receive the care and treatment for toxic wounds of war—without having to suffer the mistrust and denials that the Vietnam generation of veterans were forced to endure.

All veterans have earned the comprehensive relief this bill offers them.

But for our aging Vietnam veterans, the speedy passage of this bill is especially important—not only for the care they desperately need, but as an acknowledgement that our country recognizes and honors their service.

Jack McManus
VVA National President

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STATUS OF THE POW/MIA ISSUE: July 12, 2022

By The National League of POW/MIA Families

1,584 Americans are still listed by DoD as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War: Vietnam - 1,244 (VN-442, VS-802); Laos-285; Cambodia-48; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters-7. (These numbers fluctuate due to investigations resulting in changed locations of loss.) The League seeks the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains. Highest priority is accounting for Americans last known alive. US intelligence indicates some Americans known to be in captivity in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were not returned at the end of the war. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, it must be assumed that these Americans could still be alive, and the US Government should not rule out that possibility and should seek to account for them as a matter of highest national priority.

Vietnam established comprehensive wartime and post-war processes to collect and retain information and remains; thus, unilateral efforts by them offered significant potential. Vietnam has recently taken many unilateral actions that are welcome and appreciated, plus announced that there are no obstacles to full cooperation. Until the pandemic halted field operations, Vietnam had increased implementation of commitments to provide long-sought archival records with relevant, case-related information. This was due in part to improved working-level efforts, but also due to increased bilateral relations across the board. The January 2018 League Delegation brought commitments that offered real promise for increased success. Vietnamese officials are participating with greater seriousness and professionalism, achieving increased results, including both US-led Joint Excavation Teams and Unilateral Recovery Teams, led by Vietnamese, some of whom are US-trained. Unless budget reductions interfere, this formula allows a greater number of teams to “increase the pace and scope of field operations,” as requested by Vietnam in 2009. Due to increased mil-to-mil cooperation, USN assets have participated in underwater operations, when requested, as has DPAA “partner” Scripps Institute of Oceanography, returning to Vietnam this month.

After a rough period, joint field operations in Laos increased productivity, though more difficult than elsewhere. Laos began showing greater flexibility, having again authorized an increased number of US personnel in-country simultaneously, allowing ground transportation to accessible sites, and reaching agreement for contracting a private company to provide reliable, smaller-scale helicopter support to access remote sites. When helpful, Vietnamese witnesses are also being allowed to participate, resulting in trilateral joint US-LPDR-SRV operations. Importantly, the Lao Government authorized two additional Lao officials to work year-round with DIA’s Stony Beach POW/MIA specialist, assigned full time in-country. Lao officials also approved field investigations outside the confines of DPAA-scheduled US field operations but, recently,

COVID-related concerns have precluded these specialized field investigations. A border dispute with Cambodia impeded operations there but, hopefully, as urged by the League, and once DPAA and DIA/ Stony Beach operations resume in full, Lao and Cambodian officials will set aside political disagreements and work trilaterally with the US to proceed on humanitarian recoveries to account for our missing. In fact, the first JFA of FY22 took place in the fall in Vietnam; remains that could be those of missing US personnel were repatriated, and a unilateral recovery by Vietnam brought the only ID of a previously missing American in two years!

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Defense Intelligence Agency's Stony Beach Team: One Cambodia specialist works full time at the US Embassy in Phnom Penh, and research and field operations in Cambodia have received excellent support from US Ambassador Patrick Murphy and Cambodian officials. US Ambassador to Laos Dr. Peter Haymond is knowledgeable and supports full use of DIA's Stony Beach specialist. For years, two Stony Beach personnel have rotated on temporary duty in and out of Vietnam, collecting information via archival research and interviews of potential witnesses. DIA has long sought Vietnam's agreement to permanently station a Stony Beach Vietnam specialist in Hanoi, a proposal to which Vietnam has not yet agreed, and DIA now has three specialists rotating in/out of Hawaii/Hanoi. Increased bilateral military relations demonstrate the time is NOW for this to occur, and successive US Ambassadors to Vietnam have strongly supported this move. Sadly, SRV Minister of Public Security To Lam did not use the opportunity of meeting today with League Chairman/CEO Ann Mills Griffiths to announce a favorable decision.

Comment: Pandemic restrictions have eased in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, allowing reliable scheduling of Joint Field Activities (JFAs) to increase. Now that Laos has agreed to provide officials to accompany Stony Beach specialists and augment the investigation process while witnesses are still living, such cooperation must expand. The greatest obstacles to increased Vietnam War accounting are 1) too few qualified intelligence analysts; 2) lack of an objective assessment to determine valid US expectations; and 3) unpredictable funding for operations. Since over 80% of US losses in Laos and Cambodia occurred in areas where Vietnamese forces operated during the war, Vietnam's unilateral provision of helpful archival records, Stony Beach field investigations and interviews, plus timely DPAA analysis and feedback, are key factors to increase accounting results for unreturned Vietnam War Veterans.

POW/MIA STATISTICS

Live Sighting statistics provided by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

Live Sightings: 1,996 first-hand live sighting reports have been received since 1975, none recently. 1,941 (97.24%) are resolved: 1,340 (67.13%) equated to Americans previously accounted for (i.e., returned POWs, missionaries or civilians detained for violating SRV codes); 45 (2.25%) correlated to wartime sightings of military personnel or pre-1975 sightings of civilians still unaccounted-for; 556 (27.86%) were determined to be fabrications. The remaining 55 (2.76%) unresolved first-hand reports are the focus of continuing analytical and collection efforts: 48 (2.40%) concern Americans reported in a captive environment; 7 (0.35%) are non-captive sightings. The unresolved 55 firsthand sightings are listed below:

Pre-1976	1976-1985	1986-1995	1996-2005	2006-2015	Total
36	3	1	14	1	55

Accountability: At the end of the Vietnam War, there reportedly were 2,583 unaccounted-for American prisoners, missing or killed in action/body not recovered. As of today, the Department of Defense lists 1,584 Americans as missing and unaccounted-for, 90% of them in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos where Vietnamese forces operated during the war. A breakdown by year of recovery for the 999 Americans accounted for from Vietnam War-related losses after the official end of the war on April 30, 1975, follows:

1965-1974	War years: (more recently identified)	2
1974-1975	Winding down USG effort	28

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1976-1978	US/SRV normalization negotiations	47
1979-1980	US/SRV talks break down	1
1981-1985	1st Reagan Administration	23
1985-1989	2nd Reagan Administration	168
1989-1993	George H.W. Bush Administration	129
1993-1997	1st Clinton Administration	327
1997-2001	2nd Clinton Administration	57
2001-2004	1st George W. Bush Administration	64
2004-2008	2nd George W. Bush Administration	62
2008-2012	1st Obama Administration	51
2012-2016	2nd Obama Administration	27
2016-2021	Trump Administration	13

According to the DPAA Lab, unilateral SRV repatriations of remains with scientific evidence of storage have accounted for less than 200 of the 674 from Vietnam; two were mistakenly listed as KIA/BNR in Vietnam in 1968 but remains were actually recovered at that time. All but nine of the 280 Americans accounted for in Laos since the end of the war have been the result of joint recoveries; nine were turned over by indigenous personnel to DIA Stony Beach specialists. In addition, three persons identified were recovered in Vietnam before the end of the war. There follows a breakdown by country of the 999 Americans accounted for since the official April 30, 1975, end of the Vietnam War: Vietnam, 674; Laos, 280, Cambodia, 42 and the PRC, 3.

An additional 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, for a grand total of 1,062. Of the 63, 9 were from Laos, 53 from Vietnam, and 1 from Cambodia. These Americans were accounted for by unilateral US efforts in areas where access was possible, not due to cooperation with the post-war governments of Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia. Added to results from government-to-government humanitarian cooperation post-war, a total of 288 have been recovered and identified from Laos, 729 from Vietnam, 42 from Cambodia and 3 from the Peoples Republic of China.

Check out Link:

A Heroic POW's Strange and Epic Journey

Quite a story about a hero of the Vietnam era. Some of these faces you will remember from the nightly news accounts as it was brought into our living rooms. Very interesting story. Link to video:

<https://youtu.be/qTQhZw2wHAc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzzYjyOWMj4>

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POW/MIA/Veterans Initiative Committee Report

Grant T. Coates – Chair

23 April 2022 Report to the Board VVA National Board of Directors Meeting

1. To Date: Missing – 1,584 - 1,584 Americans are listed by DOD as missing and unaccounted. Accounted: 998 since 1975. 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975.

Total 1,061

Recovery Locations: Vietnam – 728, Laos – 288 Cambodia – 42, PRC – 3

2) Vietnam: There is no one at Detachment 2, Hanoi from Stony Beach. The quarantine was lifted on April 1, 2022. Colonel Hai (VNOSMP) and Defense Veterans Initiative Program POW-MIA Committee Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. 8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100 Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 17 Intelligence Agency (DIA) Stony Beach are discussing working together on investigations outside of JFA time periods.

3) Laos: Pete Loverde (Stoney Beach) is retiring. The Defense Intelligence Agency hopes to hire someone soon. Currently there is a three month gap before someone gets there. Laos is expected to lift their quarantine.

4) Cambodia: University of Illinois – Chicago is conducting the Koh Tang investigation and recovery related to the Mayaguez incident in 1975, under the supervision of Stony Beach's Cambodia specialist Eric Phillips who reports positively on this public/private partnership. Thirteen of the 18 Americans missing from that incident have been recovered and identified.

5) There are currently only 7-8 analysts at DPAA for the Vietnam War and this does not mean they are qualified or focused on analysis, but spending most of their preparing Case Summaries for DPAA-hosted "Family Member Updates (FMUs). There are only 3 DPAA billets that are designated intelligence analyst billets.

6) A VFW hosted VSO/National League Luncheon was held on April 1. Representatives from VVA, VFW, DAV, American Legion, Special Operations Association, Special Forces Association and the National League of Families were in attendance.

The intent was to have a responsible engagement of the mainstream VSOs, including the Special Operations Association and Special Forces Association. All in attendance agreed and committed their respective organizations to continuing awareness programs to gather information from all avenues regarding the Full-est accounting of missing from the Vietnam War.

Chaplain's Corner

Rev. Bob Lewis

The Old Paths

I liked the old paths, when Moms were at home. Dads were at work. Brothers went into the army. And sisters got married BEFORE having children!

Crime did not pay; Hard work did; And people knew the difference.

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Moms could cook; Dads would work; Children would behave. Husbands were loving; Wives were supportive; And children were polite.

Women wore the jewelry; And Men wore the pants. Women looked like ladies; Men looked like gentlemen; And children looked decent.

People loved the truth, And hated a lie. They came to church to get IN, Not to get OUT!

Hymns sounded Godly; Sermons sounded helpful; Rejoicing sounded normal; and crying sounded sincere.

Cursing was wicked; Drugs were for illness. The flag was honored; America was beautiful; And God was welcome!

To be called an American was worth dying for; To be called an American was worth living for; To be called a traitor was a shame!

I still like the old paths the best!

Rev

Congratulations

Newly Elected Officers for VVA-New York State Council

2022–2024

President Ned D. Foote

Vice President Grant T. Coates

Treasurer Nick DeLeo

Secretary Francisco Muñiz III

Eastern District Director Sam Hall

Central District Director Nick Valenti

Southern District Director John Rowan

Western District Director Bill Paton

Thanks for your support

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NEW YORK STATE VETERANS INCARCERATED AND IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM COMMITTEE REPORT

Nick Valenti - Chair

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) maintains position statements that provide valuable insight on the nation's most critical homeless veteran population. The overviews provided by the coalition explain the importance of their subject matter on the homeless and at-risk veterans, and the veteran service provider community, as well as recommendations for legislative or regulatory courses of action.

One of its most recent findings concluded "One of the most damaging causes and consequences of re-incarceration is something justice-involved Veterans too-often lack: a home." They encourage us to take time to learn about the important steps we can take in supporting Veterans with Justice involvement.

There is action being taken by New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYSDOCCS) to promote a positive, emotionally nurturing atmosphere that reinforces family bonding. It is called the Family Reunion program. As was reported in a previous narrative earlier this year this program focuses on the preservation and strengthening of family ties disrupted by incarceration. Visitations make it more likely that the family remains intact. Upon release the incarcerated person has a better chance at being integrated into society. With the added benefit of maintaining family ties homelessness and the likelihood of recidivism can be reduced, thus mitigating the justice-involved Veterans' chance of re-incarceration.

When a family member is released by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision a plan must be in place in order for the transition to be successful.

Former inmates who enter a supportive family upon their release from prison transition into responsibly acting individuals who are less likely to re-offend and return to prison.

The transition from prison to home and the community can be a happy and joyful time. It can also be a period of stress, apprehension, and uncertainty. The challenges of reentry into the family are minimized with careful preparation, and strong communication with family members.

We can make a difference if we heed the latest findings of the (NCHV). Let's take away one of the leading causes of homelessness and re-incarceration of our veteran population. Continue to support family visitations for the incarcerated.

As we observe a reduction of COVID restrictions we need to keep an eye on the needs of the crochet squads such as the one in Auburn, New York. These men have donated their time, energy and in some cases their own resources to purchase needed yarn. Their goal is simple to reaching out to the surrounding communities and providing needed winter wear to the less fortunate.

Local food banks, charities and homeless veterans are the targets of their donations. The life blood of these squads is yarn, preferably worsted yarn. The acceptable colors of this commodity for use in the prison has CHANGED once again. The colors WHITE, GREEN, BROWN, and PINK remain. However, tan has been replaced with PURPLE.

Anyone wishing to donate yarn just give me a call at 315-252-4535. If no one answers leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. If that doesn't work for you, email me at nickvalenti46@yahoo.com.

Following Attack by Troubled Veteran, Rep. Zeldin Continues Push to Expand the Dwyer Program Nationally

ROCKY POINT, NY - On Friday, August 5, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., in front of the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Statue at Rocky Point Veterans Memorial Square, Congressman Lee Zeldin (R, NY-1), a United States Army veteran, will be joined by state legislators from Suffolk County, members of his Veterans Advisory Board, and local veterans and veteran advocates to advocate for an expansion nationwide of the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer Support Program, a peer-to-peer support program for veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

At a rally on July 21, Congressman Zeldin was attacked and nearly stabbed by David Jakubonis, a veteran who is struggling with mental health issues. Mr. Jakubonis was released on his own recognizance immediately after his initial arrest without any time or effort allowed to deal with his mental health issues. The Dwyer Program is a peer-to-peer support model for veterans that has been proven to be effective at preventing tragedy and has helped returning service members throughout New York gain the support they need and thrive.

Congressman Zeldin created the Dwyer Program during his time serving in the New York State Senate in honor of PFC Joseph Dwyer, an Iraq War veteran from Mount Sinai, New York, who sadly lost his battle with PTSD. This successful peer-to-peer support model provides a safe, confidential, and educational platform where all veterans are welcome to meet with other veterans in support of each other's successful transition to post-service life and seeks to build vet-to-vet relationships that enhance positive change through common experiences, learning and personal growth.

Suffolk County served as one of four test counties in New York in 2013, the first year of the program, and since then, the program has expanded statewide, saving lives while assisting tens of thousands of New York veterans battling PTSD and TBI.

On March 1, 2021, Congressman Zeldin introduced H.R. 1476 - the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act, which would expand the Dwyer Program nationally and help veterans across the United States receive the care, treatment and support they need and deserve. This bipartisan legislation has nearly 40 cosponsors in the House of Representatives and the backing of 14 veterans advocacy groups.



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Veterans Initiative –Vietnam Veterans of America

They are seeking your help: objects taken from the battlefields of Vietnam are more than souvenirs or war trophies. They may have a story that could result in finding the location of missing war dead.



The Veterans Initiative Needs Your Help



8719 Colesville Rd.
Suite 100
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Objects taken from the battlefields of Vietnam are more than souvenirs or war trophies. Maps, stories, after-action reports, pictures, military items may have a story that could result in finding the location of missing war dead. Can you help?

Contact the Veterans Initiative at:



Veterans Initiative
Vietnam Veterans Of America
8719 Colesville Rd., Suite 100
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
vi@vva.org

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America – New York State

Lori Paton—President

State AVVA held elections on June 18,2022.

Newly elected officers are: Lori Paton - President
Mary Lynn Bodine - Vice President
Cherie Steers - Treasurer/Secretary

We would like to thank Cathy Penfield for her many years of service to NYS AVVA and wish her much good luck in the future.

I consider it both an honor and privilege to be elected state president. I look forward to working with all AVVA Chapters within NYS. Please consider coming to the state meeting on September 24th, so that we can meet and work together to reorganize NYS.

If I can be of any help, my contact info is:

Email: greeneyedlady57@roadrunner.com

Cell: (716) 418-4246

Home: (716) 694-4477

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Agent Orange Committee Report

Bill Paton – Chair

As I write this, the SFC Heath Robinson Burn Pit (Pact Act H.R. 3967} reached a compromise, which was overwhelmingly passed by Congress. It is now in the Senate where everything points to it being passed. As of now though I'm told by one of my contacts in the Senate there are two bills before it that seem to be a higher priority that they want to get through prior to the August recess. Again, PACT is expected to pass easily.

As I write this, The SFC Heath Robinson Honoring Our Pact Act, passed the Senate after a compromise was reached on H.R. 3967 Honoring Our Pact Act was passed by congress and sent to the Senate. This bill will provide expanded access to health care and disability benefits for Veterans harmed by certain toxic exposures , whether in the jungles of Vietnam or the Mountains of Afghanistan.

It currently is in Conference Committee made up of members of both the Senate and the House. There they have to agree to what is called a conference report which is then sent to the Senate and House for a vote without any changes. The President then signs it into law.

I'm Told that this has been worked on by Vietnam Veterans of America for almost two years. " **“Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”** That must be our charge today—and always.

Just a reminder. When you're Primary or someone else asks for blood work, ask them to include your PSA. For those of us that have had Prostate Cancer it can be a life saver. If you believe there should be a biopsy taken, insist on having one. My PSA was 4. something in 2016. I was told , don't worry about it. Two brothers from a group I was in told me to get a biopsy. As it turned out I had a highly aggressive cancer on the left side of my prostate. And to the chagrin of my ex wives I'm still here today.

Let's all have a great summer!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Ted Wilkinson –Chair/

REGION 2 | Delaware, New Jersey,
New York, Pennsylvania

Chapter membership totals as of August 2022

8	ALBANY	66	268	NIAGARA COUNTY	117
11	SUFFOLK	527	333	ROCKLAND	210
20	ROCHESTER	618	377	FINGER LAKES	95
32	QUEENS	239	421	STATEN ISLAND	262
49	WESTCHESTER	351	459	DUNKIRK	41
72	BROOKLYN	183	480	OWEGO	82
77	BUFFALO	692	541	PUTNUM/DUTCHESS	36
79	GLEN FALLS	69	704	AUBURN	47
82	NASSAU	335	803	ELMIRA	245
85	ONEONTA	41	827	HERKIMER	23
103	SYRACUSE	197	865	JAMESTOWN	154
126	MANHATTAN	111	869	DUTCHESS/COLUMBIA	32
140	ORANGE COUNTY	121	896	ENDICOTT	41
193	WARSAW	158	944	UTICA	161
			978	FREWSBURG	37

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Central District Report

Nick Valenti

VVA Chapters #85, #103, #377, #480, #704, #708, #803, #827, #896, #944

VVA CHAPTER #944 (Oneida County)

May – Wreath laying ceremonies in Utica and Rome.

June – Annual Patriotic Run / Walk.

Quilts for Veterans Program – 30 plus quilts were distributed.

Flags placed at three (3) veteran cemeteries.

Seventeen (17) Scholarships presented to ROTC Cadets at numerous area high school.

July – Dedication of State Route 365, Rome, NY “Oneida County Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway.

VVA CHAPTER #803 (Chemung County)

June / July – The Moving Wall in Elmira, NY.

VVA CHAPTER #704 (Cayuga County)

May – Operation Enduring Gratitude (3-day trip to Washington, D.C.)

Memorial Day Parades in Weedsport, NY and Auburn, NY.

Magnetic Signs for each of the 29 Cayuga County casualties from Vietnam.

Magnetic Signs for each of the 4 Cayuga County casualties from Afghanistan.

June – Eight (8) Scholarships presented to one student from each of the 8 participating Cayuga County High School.

Cayuga Community College Alumni of the Year Award – Nick Valenti.

Veterans Resource Fair, Auburn, NY- topics covered were health, employment, housing and legal resources.

New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame inducted Nick Valenti.

Special Olympics Torch Run – Elbridge, NY to Auburn, NY.

Town of Locke, NY Field Days.

July- Town of Owasco 4th of July Parade.

Annual Tribute Ride Route 38 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway of Valor from Owego, NY to Hannibal American Legion, Fair Haven, NY.

King Ferry annual Wheat Harvest Festival.

VVA CHAPTER #377 (Tompkins County)

May - Tri-Service Brigade, Cornell University Patriotism Awarded to Col. Noah Fox.

Replacing bunting along NYS Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway of Valor

ROTC Cadets luncheon, Cornell University

Cortland Court House Park pedestal replacement.

ROTC Commissioning Ceremony, Cornell Tri-Service Brigade.

Poppy Drive, Cortland, NY Walmart.

Memorial Day Parade, Dryden, NY.

June - DeWitt Park, Ithaca, NY clean-up graffiti.

July – Color Guard for “Ride for Veterans.” Annual Tribute Ride

August – Cortland Living History “Brockway Days.” Chapter picnic.

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VVA CHAPTER 103 (Onondaga County)

May- Veterans Tailgate Get Together at the Syracuse Veterans Center.

Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Onondaga County: Spring Clean Up, Planting 5,000 flags; and Remember and Honor Ceremony.

July - VFW Post #7290, Veterans Resource Fair topics to include: health, employment, housing, and legal resources.

August – Vet Center, Syracuse, NY summer picnic at Jamesville Beach, Sandpiper Shelter.

Veteran Scams Be On the Look Out for Them

America's Veterans are under siege by a foe that many of us struggle to defeat: Domestic Fraud. Sadly, we are twice as likely to actually fall for fraudulent schemes. In 2017, AARP research had found that 16% of veterans have lost money to scammers, compared to 8% of the non-military public.

Why? Veterans implicitly trust fellow members of the military, making them vulnerable to imposters. Veterans also have a PTSD rate more than double the general public's, which makes it more difficult for them to recognize and combat the emotional manipulation used by scam artists.

How Scammers Target Veterans.

- VA LOAN SCAMS – Offers to refinance VA loans at extremely low rates.
- UPDATE YOUR FILE SCAM – An imposter claiming to be from a government agency attempts to get a veteran's personal information to "update their file" so they can maintain their benefits.
- SECRET VETERAN BENEFITS SCAM – Veterans are told they qualify for "secret" government programs or benefits that offer thousands of dollars – but first, they attempt to collect personal information or a fee.
- PENSION POACHING SCAMS – Scammers often offer veterans lump sum payments up front, in exchange for signing over all their future monthly benefits checks.
- AID AND ATTENDANCE SCAM – Veterans (or their family members) receive an offer to move their assets into a living trust so that they can qualify for financial assisted living benefits.
- GENERAL SCAMS – These include: PHISHING (attempts to gain access to financial accounts) – You get a call or email about a program for vets that pays thousands in benefits, but they ask for your personal information; FRAUDULENT TECH SUPPORT SCAM – You get a message or email saying that there is a virus on your computer and you need to pay to remove it; FRAUDULENT CREDIT CARD / LOAN SCHEMES - You get a call from a robocaller saying you can lower your interest rate; IRS TAX SCAM – Someone calls or leaves a message saying they work for the IRS and that you owe them money; CHARITY SCAM – You are asked to make a donation to support veterans, but the charity is not a legitimate organization.

We deserve a lot of things such as praise, honor, respect, security. We don't deserve attempts to take advantage of our service. Stay vigilant and protect your hard-earned benefits from those who would steal it.
RECENT SCAMS

Page 2

GIFT CARDS: Gift card scams typically work like this: You get a call from someone, who first tries to develop some sort of connection with you and then ask for hundreds of dollars- worth of gift cards.

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Signs to watch for: (1) You are directed to buy one or more gift cards (often referred to as electronic vouchers) as a quick means of making payment; (2) you are told to share the numbers on the back of the gift cards by reading them off or sending a picture; and (3) The request comes from someone you wouldn't expect to ask for money in this manner: (A) a Social Security warning of a problem with your account; (B) a utility company warning of an eminent shutoff; (C) a lottery company promising a big prize once you pay some fees upfront; or (D) a grandchild needing bail or facing another financial emergency.

GRANDPARENT SCAMS: Grandparent scams typically work something like this. The victim gets a call from someone posing as his or her grandchild. This person explains in a frantic sounding voice, that he or she is in trouble- there's been an accident, or an arrest, or a robbery.

Warning signs: (1) The person claiming to be your grandchild asks you to send money immediately and provides details on how. For example, via gift card, prepaid card, or wiring money to a particular Western Union office; (2) The call comes late at night. Scammers figure people may get confused more easily if they call them then.

If you or anyone you know has been a victim of one of these scams, or you feel they have been scammed in some other way, please reach out to your local law enforcement agency: Inside the city - call the designated non-emergency number, outside the city the sheriff's non-emergency number; or your local New York State Police Barrack non-emergency number.



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CHAPTER MEMBER PROFILE

US Marine Corps

Corporal Nicholas Valenti served faithfully and with honor in the United States Marine Corps.

From February 1969 to August 1979, Mr. Valenti was in the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division in the Coastal Waters of the Republic of Vietnam.

For his service, Mr. Valenti earned a Meritorious Promotion to Corporal. He is the recipient of a Vietnamese Service Campaign Medal and two Meritorious Masts for Outstanding Service as head of the Battalion's Legal Services Division.

Upon his return to Auburn, Mr. Valenti continued in his personal and professional mission to service his fellow citizens and Veterans. He has served as the American Legion Post Commander (18 years) and the VVA 704 Chapter President. He has been a member of the NYS Veterans Service Officer Association and was the Cayuga County Veterans Service Officer.

Currently in his tenth year, Mr. Valenti is the NYS Central District Director for the Vietnam Veterans of America. He served with distinction as the Cayuga County Veterans Service Agency Director. He created and developed a transportation program still in existence that made it possible for veterans to go to medical appointments at the VA Medical Center in Syracuse.

Mr. Valenti was Co-chair in bringing "The Wall That Heals" to Cayuga County in 2017. This effort allowed 8,000 individuals to visit the exhibit and provided an opportunity for many who would not ever be able to visit The Wall in Washington, D.C. This exhibit also provided a sense of healing to many Vietnam veterans and their families who had the opportunity to visit "The Wall That Heals."

Mr. Valenti was the moving force in a 15-year project to design, create and bring to fruition "The Cayuga County Vietnam Veterans Memorial" and the "In Memory Program Monument." Dedicated in 2021, he worked to provide Cayuga County's Vietnam veterans with the "Welcome Home Parade" they never had.

A dedicated veteran and community voice, Mr. Valenti has worked for 14 years to make the "Wreaths Across America Program" a success, which takes place each December, for all participants and the community.

In 2021, he worked diligently with two high school students on the Purple Heart Campaign Program for our veterans.

Link to You Tube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDRgOa4_SXw&t=2s

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VVA Chapter #333

Good Day To All!

Please find the attached below of a recent photo of retired Navy Seal Daniel Cirigioni who is seen on his new lateral elliptical machine purchased and donated by chapter 333. Dan was awarded many honors for his service to our Country during his tour of duty in Vietnam, one of which was the PURPLE HEART FOR WOUNDS SUFFERED IN ACTION.

Beginning in 2013, Chapter veterans with injuries, primarily spinal cord injury. Since expanded to be inclusive of P.T.S.D., T.B.I. and a few other HAND CYCLE/SPORTS PROGRAM.

Via many fundraisers held year along at many venues, volunteers have purchased BIKES, KAY- along with special equipment disabilities from all over our established a special funding probudget item to continue on our are in need.

Chapter 333 members have main dedicated to the principal



333 endeavored to assist ly those with leg amputa- that time, the program was other injuries in example, ers as well, now named ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

throughout each ensuing chapter 333 and member HAND CYCLES, TRIKE AKS, MOUNTAIN BIKES for selected veterans with nation. Chapter 333 has es- gram in a separate line quest to aid veterans who

always and continue to re- established by the V.V.A.

"NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER."

Medal of Honor Highway dedication VVA support request

NY has passed this and HWY 20 will be named. We talked before on this and said we support but we really had not allot of input as supposedly Legion and VFW is doing it but I do not think they did much either as I spoke to NY Commander once on it and he did not have much to say.

Anyways it is done but now they want to have dedications and such and asking SC to be involved. I don't know how to be involved as our SC does not operate like that.

So I'm throwing this out to you guys as too what and who wants to grab this and run with it.

Please do not tell me what I need to do as I have enough already and someone else needs to pick up this ball or we can let the Legion and VFW take it on as they will be credited with it like you see SC was not mentioned by this guy out west.

**Legislative Recap
AB 9067**

07-19-2022 - 15:16:04

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(VA) A9067-A Barrett Same as S 7620-A BROOKS BARRETT, STERN, BUTTENSCHON, CUSICK, JONES, HUNTER, WALLACE, SANTABARBARA, ASHBY, MORINELLO, HAWLEY, MCDONOUGH, MANKTELOW, FAHY, BURKE, STIRPE, J. D. RIVERA, B. MILLER, BYRNES, GALLAHAN, NORRIS, TAGUE, LEMONDES, SALKA, GOODELL, DIPIETRO, WOERNER, DICKENS, Amd i_c1/2343-a, add i_c1/2344-n, Hway L Designates portions of the state highway system as "The Disabled American Veterans - New York Medal of Honor Highway" and the "New York Medal of Honor Highway"; renames the "Sergeant Jonathan Gollnitz Memorial Highway" as the "Sergeant Jonathan Gollnitz - New York Medal of Honor Highway".

House	Description of Action	Date	Stat
A	Introduced and referred to committee on Assembly Transportation	1-31-22	7%
A	Amend and recommit to Assembly Transportation	5- 3-2	14%
A	Print number AB 9067 A	5- 3-22	
A	Meeting set for 3:00 p.m., Webcast -- Assembly Transportation	5-10-22	23%
A	Reported and referred to Assembly Ways and Means	5-10-22	
A	Meeting set for 10:00 a.m., Webcast -- Assembly Ways and Means	5-17-22	23%
A	Reported and referred to Assembly Rules	5-17-22	
A	Meeting set for 1:45 p.m., Webcast -- Assembly Rules	5-23-22	23%
A	Ordered Direct to Third Reading	5-23-22	32%
A	Laid out for consideration in the Assembly 6:13pm	5-23-22	
A	Passed Assembly (Vote Y: 145/N: 0)	5-23-22	63%
S	Delivered to the Senate	5-23-22	
S	Referred to Senate Transportation	5-23-22	
S	Substituted for ... SB 7620	5-31-22	
S	Laid out for consideration in the Senate 5:08pm	5-31-22	
S	Passed Senate (Vote Y: 62/N: 1)	5-31-22	100%
A	Returned to the Assembly	5-31-22	
G	Delivered to the Governor	7-11-22	100%
G	Governor action due on Friday,	07/22- 7-22-22	
G	Signed by the Governor (Chap: 381)	7-18-22	100%

BILL NUMBER: A9067A

SPONSOR: Barrett

TITLE OF BILL:

An act to amend the highway law, in relation to designating portions of the state highway system as "The Disabled American Veterans - New York Medal of Honor Highway", the "New York Medal of Honor Highway" and the "Sergeant Jonathan Gollnitz - New York Medal of Honor Highway"

Continue on pg. 29)

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PURPOSE OF THE BILL:

This bill designates all of United States Route 20 that passes through New York State from the Pennsylvania border to the Massachusetts border as the "New York Medal of Honor Highway". Where U.S. Route 20 has already been designated, the bill will simply add onto the current designation.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:

§ 1- Amends § 343-a of the Highway Law to designate a portion of U.S. Route 20 as "The Disabled American Veterans - New York Medal of Honor Highway" beginning in the community of Irving, NY and ending at its terminus at the New York-Massachusetts border.

§ 2- Amends the Highway Law by adding a new § 344-n to designate a portion of U.S. Route 20 as the "New York Medal of Honor Highway" beginning at the New York-Pennsylvania border and ending at the Village of Fredonia.

§ 3- Amends § 344-h of the Highway Law to designate a portion of U.S. Route 20 in the Village of Fredonia as the "Sergeant Jonathan Gollnitz - New York Medal of Honor Highway".

§ 4- The Commissioner of Transportation shall provide for the installation and maintenance of adequate signing of the state highway system as designated pursuant to sections one, two and three of this Act. To avoid confusion and to limit any possible disruption of commerce, the designations called for shall be one of ceremonial nature and the official name of such highway shall not be changed.

§ 5- Effective date.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ORIGINAL AND AMENDED VERSION:

Technical changes were made to ensure conformity with the other State's who have designated U. S. Route 20.

JUSTIFICATION:

Over the last few years there has been a movement to have U.S. Route 20 designated as the "Medal of Honor Highway" to pay homage to those individuals whose acts of gallantry or meritorious action earned them the prestigious Medal of Honor. According to the Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States, there have been 3,527 Medals of Honor awarded since the decoration's creation during the American Civil War, with approximately 600 of those medals issued to people living in New York State, including the only woman recipient, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker of Oswego, NY. U.S. Route 20 starts at the Pacific Ocean in Oregon, and runs east through Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and finally ends at the Atlantic Ocean in Massachusetts. Currently, nine of the states have passed a law, resolution or have had the state's governor decree that U.S. Route 20 be designated as the "Medal of Honor Highway". The two remaining states are New York and Massachusetts.

This bill will designate U.S. Route 20 as the "New York Medal of Honor Highway" in the state of New York, furthering the nationwide push to have this transcontinental roadway appointed as a reminder of the many heroic and brave service members who have served our great state and country.

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(Continue from pg. 29)

LAWS OF NEW YORK, 2022

CHAPTER 381

1- 1 AN ACT to amend the highway law, in relation to designating portions of
1- 2 the state highway system as "The Disabled American Veterans - New York
1- 3 Medal of Honor Highway", the "New York Medal of Honor Highway" and the
1- 4 "Sergeant Jonathan Gollnitz - New York Medal of Honor Highway"

1- 5
1- 6 Became a law July 18, 2022, with the approval of the Governor.
1- 7 Passed by a majority vote, three-fifths being present.
1- 8

1- 9 The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-
1-10 bly, do enact as follows:
1-11

1-12 Section 1. Section 343-a of the highway law, as added by chapter 293
1-13 of the laws of 1996, is amended to read as follows:

1-14 § 343-a. Portion of state highway system to be designated as ["The]
1-15 [Disabled American Veterans Memorial Highway."] "The Disabled American
1-16 Veterans - New York Medal of Honor Highway". All that portion of United
1-17 States route twenty beginning at the community of Irving, where route
1-18 five and route twenty merge with Old Lake Shore road, and continuing
1-19 northeasterly until approximately one mile south of the town of Depew,
1-20 Erie county, then continuing easterly across New York state to its
1-21 terminus at the New York-Massachusetts border approximately two miles
1-22 east of the town of New Lebanon, Columbia county shall be designated and
1-23 known as ["The Disabled American Veterans Memorial Highway."] "The Disa-
1-24 bled American Veterans - New York Medal of Honor Highway".

1-25 § 2. The highway law is amended by adding a new section 344-n to read
1-26 as follows:

1-27 § 344-n. Portion of state highway system to be designated as "New
1-28 York Medal of Honor Highway". All that portion of United States route
1-29 twenty beginning at its beginning at the New York-Pennsylvania border
1-30 and continuing easterly across New York state until the western border
1-31 of the village of Fredonia, county of Chautauqua, then continuing east-
1-32 erly from the eastern border of the village of Fredonia, county of Chau-
1-33 tauqua to the community of Irving, where route five and route twenty
1-34 merge with Old Lake Shore road shall be designated and known as the "New
1-35 York Medal of Honor Highway".

1-36 § 3. Section 344-h of the highway law, as added by chapter 285 of the
1-37 laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

1-38 § 344-h. Portion of the state highway system to be designated as the
1-39 "Sergeant Jonathan Gollnitz [Memorial] - New York Medal of Honor High-
1-40 way". All that portion of the state highway system constituting state
1-41 route twenty in the village of Fredonia, county of Chautauqua, shall be
1-42 designated and known as the "Sergeant Jonathan Gollnitz [Memorial] - New
1-43 York Medal of Honor Highway".

1-44 § 4. The commissioner of transportation shall provide for the instal-

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1-45 lation and maintenance of adequate signing of the state highway system
 1-46 as designated pursuant to sections one, two and three of this act.
 1-47 However, to avoid confusion and to limit any possible disruption of
 1-48 commerce, the designations called for pursuant to sections one, two and
 1-49
 1-50 EXPLANATION--Matter in italics is new; matter in brackets [] is old law
 1-51 to be omitted.

2- 1 CHAP. 381 2
 2- 2
 2- 3 three of this act shall each be one of ceremonial nature and the offi-
 2- 4 cial name of such highway shall not be changed as a result of this act.
 2- 5 § 5. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
 2- 6 have become a law.
 2- 7
 2- 8 The Legislature of the STATE OF NEW YORK ss:
 2- 9 Pursuant to the authority vested in us by section 70-b of the Public
 2-10 Officers Law, we hereby jointly certify that this slip copy of this
 2-11 session law was printed under our direction and, in accordance with such
 2-12 section, is entitled to be read into evidence.
 2-13
 2-14 ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS CARL E. HEASTIE
 2-15 Temporary President of the Senate Speaker of the Assembly

- End of Report -

Southern District Report

John Rowan

VVA Chapters #11, #32, #72, #82, #126, #421

VVA Chapter #72 Brooklyn

Danny Friedman—President

Of primary concern are the proposed closures of our VA Hospitals in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Northport, and Castle Point. So far we have had rallies in Staten Island, Brooklyn, and Manhattan. All of our elected officials that I have spoken with have voiced their strong opposition to any VAMC closures. Both Congresswoman Nicolle Malliotakis and Senator Charles Schumer have given us their personal assurances that this plan is DOA. However, we must remain diligent and hold them to their word.

We celebrated Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day at the NYC Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Saturday, March 26th.

We had the best turnout since before COVID. The Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and VVA Chapter 126 did a great job in putting this together. It looks like the Brooklyn Memorial

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Day Parade is on at 100%. We expect to have afloat and we need to get out there and show our respect for our fallen and show our community that we are back. Richie is accepting donations towards the float. Any donation of \$100.00 or more will secure a place on the float. Others will be seated first come first served.

Submitted by Danny Friedman, VVA #72

Philips Device Recall Update July 2022

Your safety is our top priority. This email is to update you on the replacement of Philips Respironics Positive Airway Pressure devices (CPAP or BiPAP) impacted by the [recall](#). **If you have already received your replacement device or you do not have a Philips Respironics device, you can ignore this email.** **The Recall.** Philips Respironics recently recalled some CPAP and BiPAP devices due to breakdown of the foam used to reduce sound and vibration. These are primarily DreamStation and System One devices. Additional information on the recall and affected devices is available from [Philips Respironics](#).

If you have a recalled Philips Respironics device, it must be registered with the company to receive a replacement. To register your recalled device, go to the [Philips Respironics website](#) or call 877-907-7508. Philips Respironics will provide a replacement device when one is available as well as a prepaid return label to send them your old device.

Device scams. Be aware that there are people claiming to be from Philips Respironics that are asking patients to ship their device before a replacement is received. Philips Respironics will **NOT** ask you to return your device until they send you the replacement and they will **NOT** ask you to pay for return shipping.

Priority for replacement. Philips Respironics is now [prioritizing](#) the device replacement based on patient's health information. If you have not received your replacement and would like to provide your health information, please contact Philips through their [U.S. Patient Portal](#) or calling 877-907-7508. This may help you get a replacement device faster. VA is also prioritizing replacements to ensure the sickest patients, or those with evidence of foam breakdown receive a replacement first.

How will you receive the replacement device?

VA and Philips Respironics are working together to provide replacement devices to Veterans. In addition to devices coming from Philips Respironics, some Veterans will receive devices from VA. This coordinated replacement process allows devices to ship faster from multiple locations but is based on availability of devices. If you receive your device directly from Philips Respironics, contact your VA respiratory case manager and provide them with the serial number for your new device. VA can then place an order for your supplies.

This recall has led to a shortage of CPAP and BiPAP machines worldwide from all manufacturers. Current supply chain issues related to microchip production and shipping from international manufacturers is causing additional delays.

Is my device likely to have foam breakdown?

Philips Respironics guidance notes that the likelihood of foam breakdown is higher in older devices, those that are used in high heat and humidity environments (more than 95 degrees), or that were cleaned with an ozone sterilizing device.

If you use a Philips Respironics CPAP or BiPAP device, such as a Dream Station or System 1, continue to use your device as prescribed, register the device and:

If you are concerned about using your current device, contact your care team to schedule an appointment. Veterans who receive their care from the VA can send a secure message to their care team through [MyHealthVet](#).

- Only clean your device following the manufacturer's instructions. **Use of an ozone sterilization cleaner may be related to foam breakdown.**
- Do not attempt to remove the sound reduction foam. This can't be done without breaking the machine.

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(Continue from pg. 32)

- If you and your care team decide you can safely pause use of your device until a new one is available, **this will not impact** any related VA disability compensation benefits. Tips to improve Sleep Apnea are found [here](#).

For more information on the recall, visit the [Philips Respironics Recall](#) website or the VA Philips Respironics [Recall site](#) for frequently asked questions.

VVA Chapter #82 Nassau County
Richard Guevara—1st Vice President

Chapter 82 Accomplishments Summer 2022

On April 28 at the Hofstra University ROTC awards ceremony, we attended and provided a gift to one of the graduates.

On May 15 Chapter 82 provided the color guard at the March of Dimes event in Jones Beach.

On May 20 we provided the color guard for the Town of Oyster Bay's Armed Forces Appreciation Day at the Syosset-Woodbury Park Day honoring our veterans and Active-Duty Personnel.

On May 20 members of the Chapter attended a belated 'Heroes Among Us' awards dinner honoring Steve Bonom and Bob Chiappone for their services in the Vietnam moving wall memorial at Eisenhower Park.

On May 26 our color guard welcomed the Blue Angles at Republic Airport on their arrival to New York to participate in the Memorial Day festivities at Jones Beach.

On May 28 our color guard participated in the North Hempstead Memorial Day Parade. We provided the color guard, the firing detail and the playing of taps.

On May 29 we provided the firing detail and played taps at the Plainlawn Cemetery. We also provided a color guard at the Eisenhower Park Ceremony. Later that day we provided one of the color guards at the Long Island National Cemetery. Chapter members also attended each of these three events.

On May 30, Memorial Day, we marched in the Hicksville Memorial Day Parade. We provided the color guard, the firing detail, and played taps. The Chapter President, Steve Bonom, was the Grand Marshal.

On June 10 we provided the color guard for the Nassau University Medical Center graduation ceremony at Westbury Manor.

On June 18 we provided the color guard at the Women's Armed Forces Ceremony at the VFW Hall in Valley Stream.

On June 27 we provided the color guard at the Lido Beach 4th of July celebration.

On July 10 at the Long Beach annual Waterfront Warriors Parade Chapter 82's color guard and members of the Chapter participated in the annual event.

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(Continue from pg. 33)

On July 12 at the Town of Oyster Bay's Salute to America, we provided the color guard for the event.

On July 21 we teamed up with the Air Force Association to recognize the services of over 20 Vietnam Veterans. Our color guard opened the event. Our members presented the honorees with a gift in appreciation for their service to our country.

Chapter Membership totals as of August 2022

CONGRATULATIONS

Vincent 'Vinny' Dueñas on his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army. He is the son of deceased Chapter #82 member, Vincent Dueñas, was the printer of our newsletter for about 20 years. He used to bring his two children to our events and parades.

Vincent Dueñas is a U.S. Army Lt. Col. and foreign area officer concentrating on political-military affairs in the Western Hemisphere and has deployed to **Operation Enduring Freedom** as a cavalry and communications officer.

Dueñas holds a Master's in International Public Policy from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and a Bachelor's in History from Adelphi University. He is a Defense Council member of the Truman National Security Project and his writing has been featured in *Divergent Opinions*, *Small Wars Journal*, *The Strategy Bridge*, and the SAIS Review of International Affairs.

Currently, stationed in Italy working in the Security Assistance Directorate for DETAF-AF in Caserma Del Din, Vicenza, Italy.

He was able to bring his wife and two children to the new station that he is located in now.



US ArmyUS Army

Full-time · 1 yrFull-time · 1 yr

SCD Sync Branch Chief, SETAF-AFSCD Sync Branch Chief, SETAF-AFJun 2022 - Present · 3 mosJun 2022 - Present · 3 mosVicenza, Veneto, ItalyVicenza, Veneto, ItalyCentral Africa Desk Officer, SETAF-AFCentral Africa Desk Officer, SETAF-AF

Sep 2021 - Jun 2022 · 10 mosSep 2021 - Jun 2022 · 10 mos

Portfolio included: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome & PrincipePortfolio included: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome & Principe

Inter-American Defense College - Colegio Interamericano de DefensaInter-American Defense College - Colegio Interamericano de Defensa

4 yrs 8 mos4 yrs 8 mos

Chief, Commander's Action GroupChief, Commander's Action Group

Aug 2020 - Aug 2021 · 1 yr 1 moAug 2020 - Aug 2021 · 1 yr 1 mo

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Executive Officer to the DirectorExecutive Officer to the Director

May 2019 - Aug 2020 · 1 yr 4 mosMay 2019 - Aug 2020 · 1 yr 4 mosWashington D.C. Metro AreaWashington D.C. Metro Area

Deputy Licensure and Accreditation Manager, Inter-American Defense CollegeDeputy Licensure and Accreditation Manager, Inter-American Defense College

2017 - May 2019 · 2 yrs 5 mos2017 - May 2019 · 2 yrs 5 mosWashington D.C. MetroAreaWashington D.C. Metro Area

Politico-Military Affairs Officer, Joint Staff, J-5 Western HemispherePolitico-Military Affairs Officer, Joint Staff, J-5 Western Hemisphere

The Joint StaffThe Joint StaffJan 2015 - Dec 2015 · 1 yrJan 2015 - Dec 2015 · 1 yrArlington, VAArlington, VA

Provided direct support to the Joint Staff on equities related to the Western HemisphereProvided direct support to the Joint Staff on equities related to the Western Hemisphere

Deputy Army Section Chief, Office of Security CooperationDeputy Army Section Chief, Office of Security Cooperation

US ArmyUS ArmyFeb 2014 - Jan 2015 · 1 yrFeb 2014 - Jan 2015 · 1 yrUS Embassy, ChileUS Embassy, Chile

Served as a direct representative of the Army for all Security Cooperation efforts

Deputy Director, Foreign Area Officer ProgramDeputy Director, Foreign Area Officer Program

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language CenterDefense Language Institute Foreign Language CenterMar 2013 - Jan 2014 · 11 mosMar 2013 - Jan 2014 · 11 mosDLIFLC, Monterey, CADLIFLC, Monterey, CA

Managed planning, coordination and execution of Foreign Area Officer training and development at the Defense Language Institute

US ArmyUS Army
3 yrs 3 mos3 yrs 3 mos

Company Commander (Director of Operations)Company Commander (Director of Operations)

Jan 2012 - Feb 2013 · 1 yr 2 mosJan 2012 - Feb 2013 · 1 yr 2 mosFt. Bragg, NCFt. Bragg, NC

Led a Strategic Communications Company

Battalion Signal Officer (Information Systems Director)Battalion Signal Officer (Information Systems Director)

Dec 2009 - Jan 2012 · 2 yrs 2 mosDec 2009 - Jan 2012 · 2 yrs 2 mosFort Campbell, KY & AfghanistanFort Campbell, KY & Afghanistan

Director for all computer information systems, radio systems and satellite transmission systemsDirector for all computer information systems, radio systems and satellite transmission systems

US ArmyUS Army
3 yrs3 yrs

Company Executive OfficerCompany Executive Officer

Oct 2008 - Feb 2009 · 5 mosOct 2008 - Feb 2009 · 5 mosSchweinfurt, GermanySchweinfurt, Germany
Deputy for a multi-functional organization with vehicles and associated communications, medical and armament property

Deputy for a multi-functional organization with vehicles and associated communications, medical and armament property

Scout Platoon LeaderScout Platoon Leader

Mar 2006 - Sep 2008 · 2 yrs 7 mosMar 2006 - Sep 2008 · 2 yrs 7 mosSchweinfurt, Germany & AfghanistanSchweinfurt, Germany & Afghanistan

Led an Airborne Cavalry Scout Platoon in combat operations

CONGRATULATION BROTHER

VVA Chapter #126 Manhattan

Fred Gaisor – President

Very active quarter. To date our chapter has 111 Members with additional 104 AVVA Korean American Vietnam Veterans, 25 member supporters, we continue to grow. By years end we will have over 200 Korean American Vietnam Veterans. Our chapter supports then in events throughout NYC. Currently all our chapter members (Kavva) have been given Honorary Membership in VVA. Nationally we are supporting HR 234 the Korean American Valor act. Hopefully, congress will approve this bill which would allow the Korean American Vietnam Veterans access to the VA for medical treatment.

This past month our Korean American Vietnam Veterans host their yearly picnic which was well attended with Political leaders in attendance. Monthly chapter meetings have resumed both in person and on zoom.

The chapter has a full schedule of events featuring our second Annual Agent Orange Day August 10th. All are invited to this Annual event held at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Plaza 55 Water Street. Our Foundation, VVA126nyc foundation, is commissioning a plaque “Dedicated to Vietnam Veterans , their descendants, and others who have died or are suffering from the deadly effects of Agent Orange, other dioxins and toxic chemicals.”. Featured on the plaque is a C123 and HUID or HUEY plus below American servicemen looking upwards.

We are hopeful that by years end this will be unveiled on the “Walk of Honor” at Vietnam Memorial Plaza. Our Award-winning website is being revised and updated. The annual chapter summer picnic will be held September 10th. The highly successful annual Vietnam Poppy drive, 5 years running, , will begin in September, this donation is what keeps the chapter functioning.

Good news the House of Representatives passed the National Defense Spending Bill. Additional to the bill attached was amendment 163 , better known as HR234 Korean American Valor Act. This bill will travel to the Senate, if passed as written, will amend title 38 (armed forces of the United States) purposes for, giving our Korean America Vietnam Veterans VA Medical Benefits. Afterwards it travels to the White House for the President to sign into law. .

The battle isn’t over there is much more that must happen, but VVA has led the charge with the help of Congressional Representative Mark Takano. Our chapter has played a significant role in this worthwhile pursuit for Recognition and Medical benefits for our Korean American Vietnam War Allies, Brothers, Sisters, Friends.



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Submitted by Ms. Ines Rivera

You can avoid alcohol, drugs, sugar, salt, wheat,
dairy and carbohydrates your whole entire life,
You can exercise, meditate
and focus half your day on your health...

But if you are swallowing your dreams,
your ambitions, your regrets, your fears,
your desires and your bitterness on a daily basis,
you will suffer my friend.

For nothing,
nothing,
rots the flesh more,
than the negative emotions,
we ram down our own throats,
on a daily basis.

Food for thought.

Say your truths,
live your own way,
be yourself,
accept who you are,
accept who others are too,
share your dreams,
honour your desires,
chase your ambitions,
or don't.

Perhaps your ambition is quite simply to be peaceful.
Whatever it is you choose to do,
give yourself peace.

It's the most healing and rejuvenating path of them all.

From 'The Right Words'



(Continue from pg. 37)

National Veterans News

U.S. Senate panel rejects closing Northport VA emergency room

Northport's medical and surgical services would have shifted to area hospitals, with most care currently provided at the VA Medical Center campus eliminated, under recommendations by a Department of Veterans Affairs nationwide reorganization plan.

<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/us-senate-committee-northport-va-medical-center-dll57wmz>

Chapter Members and friends,

Please take note under the newly signed PACT-ACT if in the past you did submit a claim for HYPERTENSION and was obviously denied as it was not a presumed Agent Orange exposure, you need to get in touch with your VSO to file a SUPPLEMENTARY CLAIM or via VVA.Org. Roy

Vietnam Veterans of America, August 10, 2022

S3373 the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022” becomes law

“PACT Act Marks Most Significant Expansion of VA Health Care in 30 Years”

Today, August 10, 2022, the President signed into law the most comprehensive toxic exposure legislation supporting veterans and their families, which VVA fully supports.

VA Disability Ratings Explained

If the VA determines that you have a compensable service-related condition, or multiple such conditions, they will assign a disability rating between 0% and 100%.

A 0% disability rating goes to veterans who have a service-related diagnosis, but the condition is not severe enough to affect lifestyle, employment or social functioning and does not require medication. A 100% rating goes to veterans whose service-related conditions are completely disabling.

VA Disability Rates for 2022 with No Dependents

VA Rating Percentage

2022 VA Compensation Rate

10%	\$152.64
20%	\$301.74
30%	\$467.39
40%	\$673.28
50%	\$958.44
60%	\$1,214.03
70%	\$1,529.95
80%	\$1,778.43
90%	\$1,998.52
100%	\$3,332.06

You may receive a higher VA disability compensation rate if you have a spouse, child or dependent parent and you are at least 30% disabled. You may also receive additional compensation if your spouse has a serious disability.

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[Camp LeJeune Justice Act of 2022](#)

[YOU ARE ENTITLED TO SIGNIFICANT COMPENSATION](#)

[Severe Health Risks - Contaminated Drinking Water at Camp Lejeune](#)

Vietnam Veterans of America, July 5, 2022

Tester, Manchin, Rounds, Colleagues Statement on Bipartisan Opposition to the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission Process

Monday, June 27, 2022

(U.S. Senate) – Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester (D-Mont.), U.S. Senators Joe Manchin (D-W.V.), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.V.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), John Thune (R-S.D.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), and Rob Portman (R-Ohio) today released the following joint statement announcing their collective opposition to the Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission process moving forward in the Senate, which signifies the end of the AIR Commission:

“As Senators, we share a commitment to expanding and strengthening modern VA infrastructure in a way that upholds our obligations to America’s veterans. We believe the recommendations put forth to the AIR Commission are not reflective of that goal, and would put veterans in both rural and urban areas at a disadvantage, which is why we are announcing that this process does not have our support and will not move forward. The Commission is not necessary for our continued push to invest in VA health infrastructure, and together we remain dedicated to providing the Department with the resources and tools it needs to continue delivering quality care and earned services to veterans in 21st century facilities—now and into the future.”

In 2018 Congress passed and President Donald Trump signed into law the VA MISSION Act. Among its many provisions, the law required the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to research, develop and publish a list of recommendations intended to modernize VA medical facilities and health care delivery—including through facility expansions, relocations, closures or changes in services. The law further directed those recommendations to be reviewed by a presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed Commission, which would then report its views of the recommendations to the President who could end the process or present recommendations to Congress for a vote. Without the Senate’s approval of the nominees, no Commission will be established and the process as outlined by the VA MISSION Act will not move forward.

<https://www.veterans.senate.gov/2022/6/tester-manchin-rounds-colleagues-statement-on-bipartisan-opposition-to-the-asset-and-infrastructure-review-commission-process>

(Continue on pg. 40)

(Continue from pg. 39)

"Enhancing the State Division of Veterans' Services Is Long Overdue

Buried deep within New York State's \$220 billion budget was a change that could have a big impact on the more than 700,000 military veterans who live here. Seventy-six years after it was first established in the months following World War II, New York State's Division of Veterans' Services will be elevated to an independent, cabinet-level department within the State's governing structure.

In a new opinion piece in New York Nonprofit Media, Derek Coy, Program Officer for veterans' health at NYHealth, and Nick Armstrong, Managing Director of Research and Data at Syracuse University's D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families, discuss the newly elevated department and its potential to better meet the needs of New York's large and increasingly diverse veteran population.



VA Secretary Denis McDonough statement on PACT Act

WASHINGTON — President Biden has stated we have a sacred obligation to support veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors. As part of his first State of the Union address, he identified supporting Veterans as a key pillar of his [Unity Agenda](#) and an issue that can unite the country. The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act makes good on that promise.

In my [recent press conference](#), I spoke in detail about the Department of Veterans Affairs' strong support of the PACT Act because the bipartisan bill will help us advance one of the department's top priorities: getting more Veterans into VA care. President Biden has also been clear about his commitment to getting more VA health care to veterans impacted by toxic exposures, which is why we need Congress to send the PACT Act to his desk.

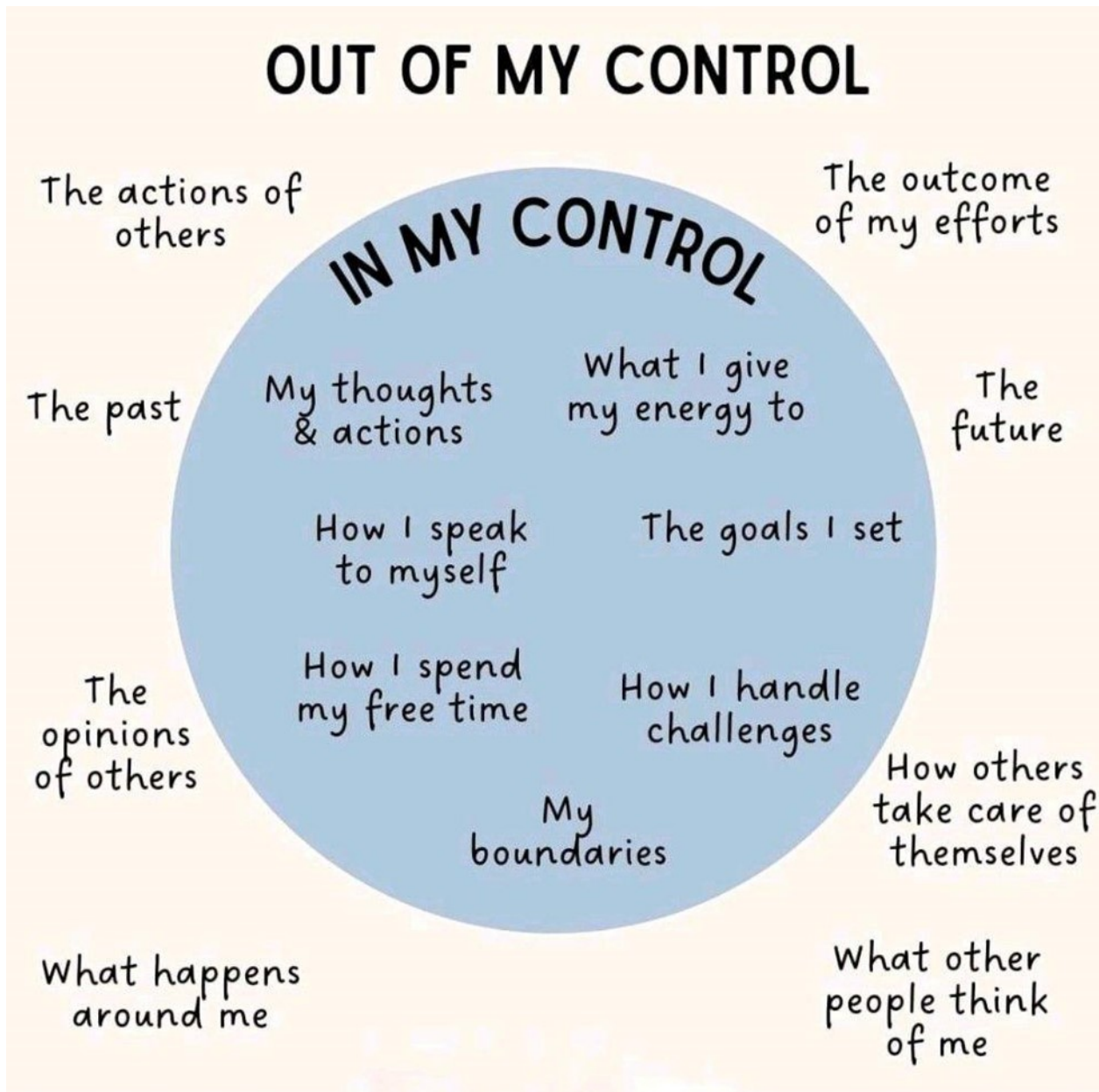
Study after study demonstrates Veterans in VA care do better — and this legislation could bring up to 3.5 million more Veterans into our care. The PACT Act would be one of the largest substantive health and benefit expansions in VA's history, comparable in scale and impact to the Agent Orange Act. It would codify many of the ongoing efforts by the department to improve its process for establishment of presumptions of service connection due to toxic exposure, reducing the burden for Veterans and increasing transparency.

We support the expansion of access to VA health care in the PACT Act and will work to ensure that the expansion of eligibility for health care does not result in the delay or disruption of care for those Veterans already receiving health care from VA.

I want to personally thank Senators Jon Tester (D-MT) and Jerry Moran (R-KS) for beginning to address the operational impact on VA by investing heavily in VA claims processing, VA's workforce and VA health care facilities. These investments and more are necessary for us to deliver the timely, quality services, benefits and care our Veterans deserve.

As always, we encourage Veterans to continue to file their claims for disability compensation and other benefits as we anticipate this legislation so VA can provide the benefits and care they have earned and deserve.

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