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DCVA

Newsletter 2017

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DE Commission of Veterans Affairs
802 Silver Lake Blvd. Suite 100
Dover, DE 19904
(302) 739-2792
Fax (302) 739-2794

www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov

John Carney, Governor
Jeffrey Bullock, Secretary of State
Larence Kirby, Executive Director

Commissioners:

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While working on our annual report I discovered Gulf War Era Veterans comprise 33 percent of Delaware's Veteran population. This means one of every three Veterans served while our nation was engaged in Kuwait, Iraq, or Afghanistan. These Veterans have valuable insight on the concerns and needs of "recent era" Veterans. They can provide updates on military changes that occurred during their military service. Unfortunately, our commission is not comprised of an appropriate percentage of "recent era" Veterans meaning we may not be in-tune to their concerns. As a result, I am asking "recent era" Veterans to submit applications to be "at-large" Commissioners. I am asking Veteran Service Organizations to submit "recent era" Veterans to represent their positions. We cannot effectively represent "all" Veterans if we don't have Commissioners who lived their experiences. In addition to "recent era" Veterans, we need additional "female" Commissioners to help understand women needs. Women have and continue to proudly serve in our military and we need to be in-tune to their unique set of concerns. If we have a 25-year old Afghanistan War Veteran seeking employment information, it would be beneficial to have a Commissioner who could relate to employment in today's social media and digital world. Our commission should represent "all" Veterans from World War II through Afghanistan so the only way to succeed is to have "all" eras represented on the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs. Help us, help "all" Delaware Veterans.



CARPER, COONS, ROCHESTER HONOR GENERAL VAVALA WITH CONGRESSIONAL RECORD STATEMENT

U.S. Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons (both D-Del.) presented Major General Frank Vavala with a Congressional Record Statement to recognize his retirement as Adjutant General for Delaware at the Delaware National Guard's annual prayer breakfast at Cavaliers Country Club in Newark on February 28, 2017. As Governor, Senator Carper appointed General Vavala, as Adjutant General Delaware in 1999.

In the statement, Senators Carper and Coons with Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester wrote: **“General Vavala leads by example ... Like the very best leaders, he has always sought to do what’s right, not what is easy or expedient. He embraces the Golden Rule and treats other people the way he would want to be treated. General Vavala surrounds himself with the best people he can find ... As a leader, General Frank Vavala is in a class of his own, and he is one whom other leaders – both civilian and military – would do well to emulate.”**



In Honor of Military Women’s Month, First State Military Women Warriors (FSMWW) Unit 10 gave a special Salute to Ms. Carobelle (Sutton) Hanssmann, United States Navy.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to you for being a part of our celebration of Ms Carol, who is believed to be Delaware’s Oldest Female Navy Veteran. A native of Wilmington, DE, Carobelle Sutton graduated from Tatnall School, Class of “1932”, the first class to receive diplomas.

In December 1942, she was among the first to enlist in the newly created military support agency **Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service** (commonly known as WAVES) which had begun on July 30, 1942. Following her enlistment, she attended Boot Camp at Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, IA.

She was assigned as a Medical Technician at Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego, CA, where she met her future husband Charles Oscar Hanssmann. Ms Carol served honorably in the Navy until her discharge in August 1945. She continues to be a source of inspiration and an example to the women in FSMWW.

FSMWW Unit 10, also recognized the honorable military service of Ms. Marion Geesman, United States Marines, Ms. Katherine Spitz – United States Army, Ms. Bonnie Maxwell – United States Marines, and Ms. Rose Squires – United States Navy.



102 Years
Young!



THREE-TIME VETERAN HONORED ON 89TH BIRTHDAY



Retired Sgt. Maj. James E. Johnson was honored during an award re-issue ceremony at the Wilmington VAMC's Community Living Center (CLC) on Feb. 3rd. Johnson, a native of Wilmington, received several medals, ribbons, and badges, including the third-highest for valor, the Silver Star Medal. The ceremony, attended by more than 100 people,

also fell on Johnson's 89th birthday.

Retired Army Col. Laura Sievert, a VA volunteer and close friend to Johnson, pinned the various awards as the history of each was read by Brendan Mackie, veterans advisor to U.S. Sen. Chris Coons. Johnson, who served his career as an Army medic, also received letters of appreciation from Gov. John Carney; U.S. Sens. Tom Carper and Chris Coons; U.S. Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester; and Director Larence Kirby, Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs.

Senator Coons' office further coordinated with the U.S. Army Medical Department to have Johnson's Silver Star citation featured on their historical website with the other Silver Star recipients. The Army medical command was previously not aware that Johnson was one of the few Army medics to be awarded a Silver Star Medal.

Johnson's re-issued and inscribed Silver Star Medal was earned for his actions 1 April 1967 as part of Operation Junction City during the Vietnam War.

"Johnson, ignoring the heavy enemy fire, ran into the kill zone and began administering medical aid to casualties as the battle raged on around him," according to the award citation obtained by Coons' office.

"Without regard for his personal safety, he continually exposed himself to the hostile fire to treat the casualties and carry them to the evacuation area. Sergeant Johnson's display of undaunted courage and outstanding devotion to duty undoubtedly saved the lives of many American soldiers."

Johnson had a distinguished, roughly 30-year career with the Army. He served in administrative, medical, and tactical roles during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Johnson is the recipient of several awards including the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal (4th Award), Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal (7th Award), Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Combat Medical Badge (2nd Award).

For questions about VA issues or assistance with obtaining lost medals, Delawareans are encourage to reach out to Senator Coons' office at 302-573-6345. (Brendan Mackie and Zeke Harrington, Office of U.S. Senator Chris Coons) Photos by VAMC -- David Curtis

VVA CHAPTER 83 HONORS AND REMEMBERS



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 83 Gold Star Program was created to bring remembrance to Gold Star Families that reside in the First State and to honor their loved one who gave "the last full measure".

March 3, 2017, VVA Chapter 83 remembered the sacrifice of Distinguished Service Cross recipient,

Sp/4 Keith Allen Campbell, on what would have been his 71st birthday, by placing a memorial wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery.

Delaware Gold Star Representative, Judy C. Campbell is the proud Gold Star Sister of Sp/4 Campbell. Judy said, "There is no greater way to honor the life of our heroes than walking the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery where we can pay our respects."

Following the moving service Judy presented The 3d U. S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) with

(Cont. pg. 4)

a handmade "Dover Gold Star Shawl". As Delaware Gold Star Representative, Judy was presented with this shawl several years ago and found it fitting its permanent home be with The Old Guard at Arlington National Cemetery. We now have a "Dover Gold Star Shawl" at DAFB, where our Dignified Transfers take place and one at Arlington National Cemetery where many of our heroes are laid to rest.

Thank you Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 83!! *Lest we never forget* (Tom Daws, President VVA Chap 83)

DELAWARE GOLD STAR LADIES ANNUAL VICTORIAN TEA



Delaware Gold Star Ladies Annual Victorian Tea, hosted by VVA, Chapter 83 Gold Star Program, was well attended this year, Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017. We graduated from one large table in the main dining room to an additional four adjoining tables.

This Annual Victorian Tea is to honor the Gold Star Mothers, Wives, Children and Siblings that reside in Delaware. We shared information about our immediate family members who gave their lives in service to our Nation.

A delicious afternoon luncheon was enjoyed with various teas. Each lady received a door prize and our Gold Star Ladies each received a *personalized* vase, which honors their loved one. We've learned you're never too old to have fun! Games were enjoyed by all! Our Gold Star Ladies were each presented with a yellow presentation rose, compliments of Belak Flowers. A special thank you to each and everyone of these dear ladies and their friends for honoring and remembering! (2/11/17, Judy C. Campbell, DE Gold Star Representative)



Members of the Korean War Veterans Association were honored at the 18th Annual Ruck March on February 25 at the Air Mobility Command Museum at Dover AFB. Pictured are team members who competed in the run, along with Korean War Veterans, Jack McGinley, James Schaffer, DCVA Commissioner Daniel Coons, and Dave Miller. Also pictured is Col. Randy Boswell, Commander of the 436th Mission Support Group. KWVA members who attended but are not pictured are John Weidenhof and Joann Sedei.

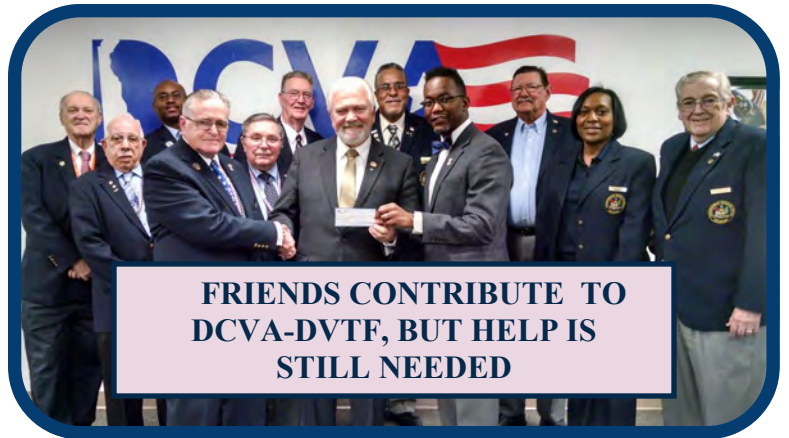


The Sixth Annual 'Our Community Salutes' Delaware will be held on May 16th at the Cavaliers Country Club. Our Community Salutes is part of a nationwide effort to recognize and thank those Delaware High School seniors who have chosen to join one of the military services after graduation. The Delaware Chapter, Association of the U.S. Army began the Delaware program for our newest veterans in 2012. Student enlistees and their parents are welcomed with a dinner, congratulatory remarks and certificates of appreciation from State and local government. Attendees are introduced to various support agencies (USO, Red Cross, Military OneSource, etc.) that will be useful at some point during or after their service. Tim Furlong of NBC 10 will return as the emcee. (Gary W. Dawson, Colonel, USA (Retired) President, Delaware Chapter, Association of the U.S. Army)



Please donate: delawareveteranstrustfund.com

The Friends of Delaware Veterans, the official fundraising organizations of the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund, contributed \$30,000 to the Trust Fund on February 24th after the Commission of Veterans Affairs monthly meeting in Dover. "The money is the result of multiple events conducted by and with community groups," said Dave Skocik, Friends president. While \$30,000 is a lot of money, it represents only about three months of grants toward the needs of state veterans. "Raising money is labor intensive so we are doing our best to reach out to organizations willing to conduct fundraisers. That includes asking Delaware's veterans posts to conduct only one fundraiser a year for the Trust Fund." Because the Friends work in conjunction with the Commission, one hundred percent of what they raise is used for Delaware's veterans in proven need. *Left to right Charles T. Armbruster, Jr., Paul V. Lardizzone, John F. Hampton, William C. "Bill" Farley (Chairman), Earl E. Seppala, William C. "Bill" McMullen, David Skocik, MyRon W. Smith, Larence Kirby, Eugene F. Bradley, Angela F. Showell (Vice Chair), Ronald G. Sarg.* Photo by Pamela Anderson.



FRIENDS CONTRIBUTE TO DCVA-DVTF, BUT HELP IS STILL NEEDED



Dave Skocik, Friends president; Paige and Aaron Bright; Christina Fitzwater; Paul Davis in back.

1ST STATE AMERICAN CREW TO HOST MAY 6 CAR SHOW FOR VETERANS TRUST FUND

1st State American Crew, in conjunction with the Friends of Delaware Veterans, Inc., is sponsoring a car show on Saturday, May 6, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Blue Hen Business Center, 625 S. Bay Road, Dover, to benefit the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund.

Former U.S. Marine Aaron Bright and his wife Paige are joining the effort on behalf of his fellow veterans. Mr. Bright served on the Marine's Fleet Antiterrorism Security Teams before leaving the Corps in 2016. FAST maintains forward-deployed platoons at various naval facilities

around the globe and possesses alert forces capable of rapidly responding to unforeseen contingencies worldwide. The 1st State American Crew is a car club for car enthusiasts who live in Delaware who own any year, make, and model of car. It was founded in 2015 by Christina Fitzwater and her husband to raise funds for local charities. Visit www.facebook.com/1ststateamericancrew for more information. The show will include trophies in several categories and feature a DJ, a silent auction with products from local companies, and a 50/50.

"We are truly appreciative of the efforts of this car club and Mr. Bright to help our veterans," said Paul Davis, vice president of the Friends. Admission is free but there will be a \$15 fee for vehicles entered in the competition. Email 1ststateamericancrew@yahoo.com for registration information. (March 16, 2017 Contact: Dave Skocik)

Dave Skocik, president of Friends of Delaware Veterans, receives checks totaling \$1,245 on January 29 from Dr. Stephanie Steckel and her team at Orthodontics on Silver Lake in Dover. The contribution is the result of a Christmas tree the dental practice put up at Dover's Grotto Pizza in November. Of 13 entrees their tree, benefiting the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund, drew the most votes. The proceeds included \$250 from Grotto Pizza. *Pictured L to R: Joanna Kouse, Annabel Robinson, Dr. Steckel, Dave Skocik, Amelia Williams, Jessica Kwasnieski and Anna Niemeyer.* (January 30, 2017, Contact: Dave Skocik)



ORTHODONTICS ON SILVER LAKE CONTRIBUTES TO DVTF

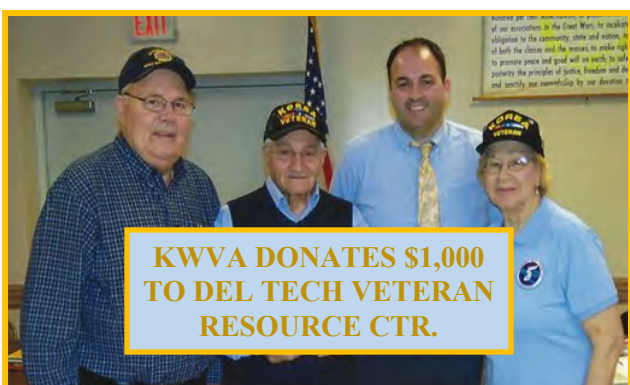
At a meeting in Dover on January 30, the State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America, including Kent County Chapter and New Castle County, contributed \$2,000 toward the construction of U.S. Marine Corps obstacle course at First State Military Academy in Clayton. At a following meeting the same evening the Delaware Veterans Coalition contributed another \$500.

The obstacle course will provide a resource for the school's students and demonstrate to the U.S. Marine Corps that the affiliated school is going to be a national model and should be assisted, according to FSMA Board Member Chuck

Baldwin, and a retired Navy Command Master Chief. The \$27,500 project will construct a state of the art facility for cadets to train on, host school competitions and demonstrate on a state and national level the importance of physical fitness in the development of young men and women. Enter key words "First State Military Academy Facebook" for a look at the school. **L to R:** Mahlon Fegley, treasurer; Paul Davis, state council president; Chuck Baldwin, FSMA board member & DCVA Commissioner; Tom Daws, president, VVA Chapter 83, New Castle; Rocky Graves, state council secretary; Terry Baker, state council vice president. Not pictured Joe Startt Jr., Chapter 850 president. (Dave Skocik)



VIETNAM VETERANS AND VETERANS COALITION CONTRIBUTE TO FIRST STATE MILITARY ACADEMY



KWVA DONATES \$1,000 TO DEL TECH VETERAN RESOURCE CTR.

The Korean War Veterans Association recently donated funds to the Delaware Technical Community College in Georgetown for their new Veteran Resource Center expected to open in the Spring/Summer, 2017.

In an effort to increase support for Veterans attending Del Tech's Owens Campus, the college will host guest speakers, financial education, tutoring, career workshops and Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) seminars. Also, it will provide a meeting place for veterans to study, relax and to engage fellow vets with discussion groups. It will be a location for the Veterans Inspiring Progress (VIP) student organization, which will offer support and networking for the veteran campus community.

For more information about the new Del Tech initiative, please call Jason Bentley at 302 259 6024. To contact the KWVA, please call Jack McGinley at 302 945 0698. *Pictured: David Tidwell, Del Tech grad and contributor to the Tidwell Family Scholarship Endowment, Walt Koopman, KWVA Programs Director, Jason Bentley, Del Tech Development Director and Joann Sedei, VP of the KWVA. (Jack McGinley, president of the Bill Carr chapter of the KWVA)*

In a presentation at morning formation February 28, Marine Corps League, General Thomas Holcomb Detachment, Wilmington, Del., presented First State Military Academy with a \$1000 donation to support Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) and athletic programs at the school. Led by Detachment Commandant Leroy Edler, five members of the detachment leadership made the presentation to the faculty and cadets.

“We applaud the work that you are doing to provide a channel for young people to participate in a military based educational experience,” said Mr. Edler. The funds will be split, with half supporting construction of the new obstacle course and the other half helping the boy’s lacrosse team.

“This was a very generous gift from the Marine Corps League,” said FSMA Operations and Athletic Director Arles Wood. “We really appreciate this financial assistance. I know we will put the funds to good use very quickly.” Marine Corps League General Thomas Holcomb Detachment is based at the Marine Corps Reserve Center, Wilmington, Del. (28 Feb, 2017, Dan Bates, First State Military Academy) (Photo by Katherine Escudero, First State Military Academy)



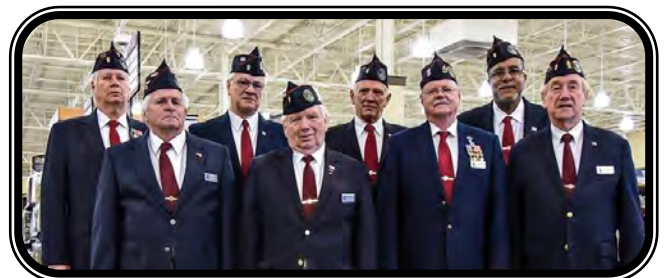
MCL DONATES FUNDS TO FIRST STATE MILITARY ACADEMY

HELPING TO FULFILL A NATION'S PROMISE

On February 17th Cabela's at the Christiana Mall dedicated a POW-MIA Chair of Honor. During the holiday we were at the Wreaths Across America event at the Delaware Veterans Cemetery and Rosely Robinson from A Hero's Welcome approached us about setting up a POW – MIA Chair of Honor at Cabela's. The next day we came back to the store and told our General Manager we wanted to do this and without a hesitation he said make it happen.

We have gotten so much positive response to the chair it is humbling. From the start we were getting people asking when is it happening and how they could be a part of it. We pulled in elements from all parts of our community from law enforcement and first responders to children's choirs and military academies to state. In the store that day we had over 500 people including Senator Chris Coons, Maj Gen Carol Timmons, a member of each of the 5 services, state county and local police, mutable fire departments, countless veterans and just the general public who wanted to come out to pay their respects to our veterans. The community came together to help honor those who gave so much for this country.

The purpose of the chair is to create awareness for POW-MIAs as well as all of our military and the issues they face and with 1.5 million people coming through our store a year we should generate a lot of awareness. If just 2% of that number reach out to help our military that is 20,000 people. Awareness is great but action is even better so what we are doing is partnering with a different group each month and highlighting them with information on how people can connect with them to help service members in need. The first group we are working with is Stop Solider Suicide. It was an honor to do this and to have this chair in our building. *(March 13, 2017, Eric Williams, Retail Marketing Manager Cabela's Christiana)*



Delaware MOPH Donates to Dover AFB Fisher House and USO - for Families of the Fallen Fisher House at DAFB



L-R Colonel Dawn Lancaster (Commander Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations, USAF), John Jackson (Sr Vice Commander, MOPH Dept of Delaware), Jim Hooper (Chaplin MOPH Chapter 1787), Fisher House Staff(USAF), Gary Morris (Commander, MOPH Dept of Delaware), Mike Lovett (Adjutant, MOPH Dept of Delaware), Fisher House Staff (USAF), Moses Akui (Member Chapter 1787), Bruce Kmiec (Director, USO Delaware), Fisher House Staff (USAF), Fisher House Staff (USAF), Yolando Bottorf (Program Manager, USO Delaware) - Photo by Christin Michaud Dover AFB

MOPH DE Dept. Commander, Gary Morris, presented \$1000 each to the Dover AFB Fisher House and USO Delaware. The Fisher House provides accommodations for Families of the Fallen at Dover AFB, as their loved one arrives at Dover. USO Delaware supports the Families of the Fallen as they travel to and from Dover and provides support to the families while they stay at the Fisher House. Use the following link for more information on the Dover AFB Fisher House: <http://www.mortuary.af.mil/About-Us/Families-of-the-Fallen/>. In addition to this solemn mission, USO Delaware continues to support every current military and family member in the state of Delaware through a great number of programs-*Always by their Side*. Use the following link for more information on USO Delaware: <https://delaware.uso.org/>.



DE MOPH CONTRIBUTES TO WOMEN'S HOME OF THE BRAVE

John Jackson (left) and Gary "MO" Morris, Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Delaware, present checks totaling \$1,285 to Jessica Finan, executive director of The Home of the Brave II in Milford, for women veterans. MOPH, whose two chapters, 9377 and 1787, cover Delaware, is a Congressionally-chartered charity composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat. The presentation took place after the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs monthly meeting in Dover.



The Department of Delaware Military Order of The Purple Heart is a non-profit, 501(c) (19) veterans' service organization serving combat wounded veterans throughout Delaware.

For more information on the MOPH, contact John Jackson at 302 228-9577 or by email at MOPH1787@gmail.com. Visit MOPH Chapter 1787's Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/moph1787>, for current information on veteran health care, benefits, and employment.

John Jackson
Senior Vice Commander
Department of Delaware
Military Order of The Purple Heart
302 228-9577
<http://facebook.com/moph1787>

MR. POWERS RECEIVES WWII BALL CAP

Mr. Power a ninety six year old Delaware vet finds a happy home. Mr. Power had no idea that he would someday become homeless, this happens to too many of our veterans. The Georgetown Police Department came to the rescue, of our senior veteran and they intern contacted the Veterans' Awareness Center Foundation located in Greenwood, Delaware. When the veteran's needs were understood and taken care of the American Legion Post came to his rescue, providing for his hotel needs and then provided funds for an airline ticket, to help send the Veteran to meet his Grandson and his family in Tampa Florida.

The only other issue was the veterans desire to locate his World War II ball cap which had been taken from him. Knowing of his loss, Liz and Bill Jiron made it a mission to visit with Mr. Power in Tampa, to meet his family and to provide for him what he was missing and that was a World War II ball cap.

Mr. Power appreciated his gift and we appreciated meeting his family. Knowing that he has a safe place to sleep is the ending to a "Great Story" for a homeless veteran said, Liz Byers-Jiron! *(Elizabeth Byers-Jiron, Executive Director Delaware Veterans' Stand Down)*



THE DELAWARE 2017 VETERANS' STAND DOWN "KICK OFF"

The Delaware 2017 Veterans' Stand Down "Kick Off" Meeting was held on Thursday, 26 January 2017. The ninth annual event, volunteers have come forward, to make this year's event very special for the veterans. If you would like to volunteer or even provide new ideas for the event please contact the Veterans' Awareness Center Foundation Executive Director and Stand Down Director: Liz Byers-Jiron at: lbjnavcret@hotmail.com or 302-349-4898. You are invited to attend the planning meetings scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month at the Delaware Commission of Veteran Affairs Office at 2:00 p.m.



Veterans' Awareness Center Foundation
12385 Sussex Highway
Greenwood, Delaware 19950
302 349-4898

The Veterans' Awareness Center Foundation, has collaborated with the Delaware Dental Society to provide affordable dental services for low income veterans. Over thirty dentists have been working with our veterans during 2016. It has been a great year for those that have received new teeth! This success story has been a result of the Delaware Veterans' Stand Down and the Stand Down Committee Members. We hope that 2017 will be another great year for the "Give A Vet A Smile" Program. Donations may be made for the Dental Program to the Veterans' Awareness Center Foundation at 12385 Sussex Highway Greenwood, Delaware. Please help those that cannot afford dental support regain oral healthiness and self-esteem. *(December 13, 2016, Elizabeth Byers-Jiron, Executive Director, Delaware Veterans' Stand Down)*

Delaware's first museum dedicated to its military will open Saturday April 15, at 10 AM after over a decade of effort. A diverse group of dedicated volunteers has been assembling educational exhibits and displays meant to inspire our citizens with the words and deeds of Delaware's uniformed servicemen and women over a history spanning 350 years. The museum includes Delaware's most extensive military library and archive.



According to Army Brigadier General Terry Wiley (Ret.), the Foundation Chairman, "We hope to fill a critical gap in our citizens understanding of Delaware's history, especially among our youth and we intend to do it in a fun and interesting way."

The featured first exhibit will honor the centennial of the First World War, with uniforms, maps, images, and artifacts of the "Great War". Kennard Wiggins author of *Delaware in World War I*, will give a talk on his book at 2 PM. Other exhibits will include Delaware's role as a colony and in the Revolutionary War. Re-enactors of the First Delaware Regiment will be on hand to lend a touch of living history. Plans include a gift shop and basic refreshments for sale.

The new museum is co-located with the Delaware National Guard Wilmington Readiness Center and the Mid County Senior Center on First Regiment Road, just off McKennan's Church Road. It will be open on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 10AM to 4 PM. The Delaware Military Heritage and Education Foundation, Inc. *First Regiment Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19808-2191. 302-332-2485 <https://demilitaryheritage.wordpress.com/>*



Image Courtesy University Museums, University of Delaware

The Delaware Military Museum Presents

Delaware in World War One

A Centennial Celebration

Author historian Brigadier General Kennard Wiggins (DE NG Ret.) will offer a broad overview of Delaware's role during the First World War. He will touch on some selected brief highlights from his recent book, offering illuminating stories he discovered during his research. These include, among others, a tale of adventure by the state governor, a German pirate in Delaware waters, a notable professional baseball player, an inadvertent draft dodger, some persecuted Mennonites, and the story of Delaware's Regiment in France.

Free and Open to the Public.

April 15, 2017, 2 P.M.

Delaware Military Museum Library
First Regiment Road, Wilmington Delaware

The older population in America continuing to grow and will burgeon between the years 2010 and 2030, when the baby boomer generation reaches age 65.

■ By 2030, there will be about 72.1 million older people, comprising almost 20 percent of the total population—nearly twice as many as in 2007.

■ The 85-plus population is projected to increase to 6.6 million in 2020, a 15 percent increase from 2010. Seniors are living longer, but not necessarily better. Potential declines in cognitive and physical functions could make them more vulnerable to victimization. Elders who experience abuse, neglect, or self-neglect face a considerably higher risk of premature death than elders who have not been mistreated.

What is Elder Abuse?

In general, elder abuse refers to intentional or neglectful acts by a caregiver or “trusted” individual that lead to, or may lead to, harm of a vulnerable elder. Physical abuse; neglect; emotional or psychological abuse; verbal abuse and threats; financial abuse and exploitation; sexual abuse; and abandonment are considered forms of elder abuse. In many states, self-neglect is also considered mistreatment.

Types of Elder Abuse

Physical abuse – Use of force to threaten or physically injure a vulnerable elder.

Emotional abuse – Verbal attacks, threats, rejection, isolation, or belittling acts that cause or could cause mental anguish, pain, or distress to a senior.

Sexual abuse – Sexual contact that is forced, tricked, threatened, or otherwise coerced upon a vulnerable elder, including anyone who is unable to grant consent.

Exploitation – Theft, fraud, misuse or neglect of authority, and use of undue influence as a lever to gain control over an older person’s money or property.

Neglect – A caregiver’s failure or refusal to provide for a vulnerable elder’s safety, physical, or emotional needs.

Abandonment – Desertion of a frail or vulnerable elder by anyone with a duty of care.

Self-neglect – An inability to understand the consequences of one’s own actions or inaction, which leads to, or may lead to, harm or endangerment.

Warning Signs

Physical Abuse – Slap marks, unexplained bruises, most pressure marks, and certain types of burns or blisters, such as cigarette burns.

Neglect – Pressure ulcers, filth, lack of medical care, malnutrition or dehydration.

Emotional Abuse – Withdrawal from normal activities, unexplained changes in alertness, or other unusual behavioral changes.

Sexual Abuse – Bruises around the breasts or genital area and unexplained sexually transmitted diseases.

Financial Abuse/Exploitation – Sudden change in finances and accounts, altered wills and trusts, unusual bank withdrawals, checks written as “loans” or “gifts,” and loss of property. It is estimated that elders throughout the United States lose a minimum of \$2.9 billion annually due to elder financial abuse and exploitation. Elder abuse can happen to anyone—a loved one, a neighbor, and when we are old enough, it can even happen to us.

In Delaware, call 800-223-9074 to report suspected elder abuse. Calls are strictly confidential. Remember: You do not need to prove that abuse is occurring; it is up to the professionals to investigate the suspicions.



Abuse hurts at any age.
Prevent it. Report it.
call
1-800-223-9074
Delaware Adult Protective Services
All calls are confidential.

Camp Lejeune: Past Water Contamination



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012

From the 1950s through the 1980s, people living or working at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with industrial solvents, benzene, and other chemicals.

Disability compensation

VA has established a presumptive service connection for Veterans, Reservists, and National Guard members exposed to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune from August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987 who later developed one of the following eight diseases:

- Adult leukemia
- Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- Bladder cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Liver cancer
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

Presently, these conditions are the only ones for which there is sufficient scientific and medical evidence to support the creation of presumptions; however, VA will continue to review relevant information as it becomes available.

Veterans who are experiencing other health conditions that they think may be related to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune are encouraged to contact their primary care provider and to file a claim. VA reviews and decides disability compensation claims on a case-by-case basis.

- Documentation showing dependent relationship to a Veteran who served at Camp Lejeune, such as marriage license or birth certificate
- Documentation showing you lived on the base for 30 days or more between Aug. 1, 1953 and Dec. 31, 1987 such as copies of orders or base housing records
- You paid health care expenses for a covered condition respective to the following date ranges.
- If you lived on Camp Lejeune between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987, then you can be reimbursed for care that you received on or after August 6, 2012
- If you lived on Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1956, then you can be reimbursed for care that you received on or after December 16, 2014

When evidence is not submitted, VA will use all relevant evidence from internal sources and the Department of Defense (DoD) to support your application. Please be aware it may take longer to review your application.

In accordance with the 2012 Camp Lejeune health care law, VA provides cost-free health care for certain conditions to Veterans who served at least 30 days of active duty at Camp Lejeune from January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987

Qualifying health conditions include:

- Esophageal cancer
- Breast cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Multiple myeloma
- Renal toxicity
- Female infertility
- Scleroderma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Lung cancer
- Bladder cancer
- Leukemia
- Myelodysplastic syndromes
- Hepatic steatosis
- Miscarriage
- Neurobehavioral effects

Veterans eligible for health care under the 2012 Camp Lejeune health care law may enroll in VA health care and receive medical services for the 15 covered health conditions at no cost (including copayments).

Not yet enrolled in VA health care? **Apply online** or call 1-877-222-8387 for help. Inform VA staff that you served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days during the covered time period.

Family members of Veterans who also resided at Camp Lejeune during the qualifying period are eligible for reimbursement of out-of-pocket medical expenses related to the 15 covered health conditions. VA can only pay treatment costs that remain after payment from your other health plans.

Apply online for reimbursement or call 1-866-372-1144 for help. What type of evidence can I submit with my application?

For more information, please go to VA.GOV and search Camp Lejeune.

DAV

Department of Delaware

and

Knights of Columbus



ARE SPONSORING

A Day at the BLUE ROCKS™

Wednesday
May 10, 2017



Game time 6:35 pm



Tickets - \$10.00 each

Deadline: April 28, 2017



Please mail checks to:
DAV, Department of Delaware
PO Box 407
Camden, DE 19934
(annotate "Ball game" in memo line)

For additional information: Call (302) 697-9061 or (302) 382-3448



Saturday, May 27th, 2017
10:30 am

DE Veterans Memorial Cemetery
2465 Chesapeake City Rd.
Bear, DE 19701



Hosted by AFSA
Commissioner Bill McMillen.

Tuesday, May 30th, 2017
10:30 am

War Memorial Plaza (DE Bridge)
163 Cherry Lane
New Castle, DE 19720



Hosted by American Legion
Commissioner Charles Armbruster



Wednesday, June 14th, 2017
10:00am

DE Veterans Memorial Cemetery
26669 Patriots Way
Millsboro, DE 19966



Hosting
Organization
TBD.



Freedom

5K Run/Walk & Roll

Benefits the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund

Saturday, July 1, 2017
Silver Lake Park, Dover
(Use Washington Street entrance off of State State)

Sponsorship Form

Sponsorship includes your Company or Organization listed on the Freedom 5K t-shirt.

Company/Organization Name _____

Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

_____ **Gold Level Sponsor (\$500)** - Includes 3 free registrations

_____ **Silver Level Sponsor (\$300)** - Includes 2 free registrations

_____ **Bronze Level Sponsor (\$100)** - Includes 1 free registration

SPONSORSHIP Application must be received by June 12, 2017.
(Date is to allow time to process T-shirts with sponsors' information)

PAYMENT INFORMATION: Please make checks payable to: Veterans Trust Fund and mail/drop off to the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, DE 19904.

Thank you for your support!



18th Annual
Freedom
5K Run/Walk & Roll
Benefits the Veterans Trust Fund



Apr-Jun 2017

Mark your calendars! Sat. July 1st!!!
Don't forget, you can also register at:

TriSportsEvents.com

This is a TriSports Events MyLaps Chipped Timed Production

For more information,
contact DCVA at 302-739-2792

-----**ENTRY FORM**-----

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY: I know that running/walking a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run/walk unless I am medically able and properly trained. I assume all risks associated with running/walking this event including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, including high heat and/or humidity, extreme cold, the conditions of the road and traffic on the course, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts, and in consideration of your accepting my entry to participate in the Freedom 5K & Kiddie K Run/Walk & Roll, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release the TriSports Events Management, Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, the City of Dover, The State of Delaware and all sponsors, their representatives and successors from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver. I hereby give my permission to the event organizers and sponsors to use my name and/or picture in any publication, broadcast, telecast or other account of this event without limitation or obligation of further compensation thereof. By signing this waiver and release I certify that I fully understand its significance.

Age Day of Race _____ Sex: M F T-shirt Size: S M L XL XXL

Print Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____
(Street or P.O. Box) City State Zip

Phone: () _____ Circle One: 5K Run 5K Walk Silent Hero 5K Roll

Signature: _____

(All participants must sign waiver - parent or guardian signature required if entrant is under 18)

Registration: \$20 until June 24, \$25 after and on event day. Registration starts 8 a.m.. Kiddie K race is FREE!. Make checks payable to Veterans Trust Fund, mail to TriSports, 2772 Hazletville Rd, Dover, DE 19904. Contact Ray at 302-674-3213 or email: Races4u@TriSportEvents.Com. Register online at TriSportsEvents.Com.

Here are testimonials of how the Trust Fund has helped our DE veterans...



A tale of two vets: nonprofit takes care of Delaware's veterans when they're most in need WDEL.COM | BY LAUREN HUET

For full story, please visit: DELAWAREVETERANSTRUSTFUND.COM or WDEL.COM



The effect of military service can be profound and lasting. There are a number of financial, social and health issues that result from military service. Some Wounded Warriors and Veterans who have a compensation rating of 100% P&T are unaware that Social Security may expedite the processing of their disability claims.

Benefits available through Social Security are different than those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application.

The expedited process is used for military service members who become disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs.

Starting March 17, 2014, veterans who have a VA compensation rating of 100% permanent and total (P&T) may receive expedited processing of applications for Social Security disability benefits.

What do I need to know about the VA & Social Security programs?

Both Social Security and VA pay disability benefits. However, their programs, processes and criteria for receiving benefits are very different.

A VA compensation rating of 100% Permanent and Total does not guarantee that you will receive Social Security disability benefits. To be approved for Social Security benefits, you must meet Social Security’s definition of “disability.” To be found disabled:

- You must be unable to do substantial work because of your medical condition (s); and
- Your medical condition (s) must have lasted, or be expected to last, at least one year or to result in death.

If you receive VA compensation, this will not affect your Social Security benefits.

Even active duty military who continue to receive pay while in a hospital or on medical leave should consider applying for disability benefits if they are unable to work due to a disabling condition. Active duty status and receipt of military pay does not necessarily prevent payment of Social Security disability benefits. Although a person cannot receive Social Security disability benefits while engaging in substantial work for pay or profit, receipt of military payments should never stop someone from applying for disability benefits from Social Security.

For those who return home with injuries, Social Security is a resource they can turn to for disability benefits.

Social Security’s Wounded Warriors website is at www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors.

With over 80 years of experience and compassionate service, Social Security is proud to support our veterans and active duty members of the military. Both today and tomorrow these heroes can count on us when they need their earned benefits.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.ssa.gov/people/veterans/>

Call or visit your local Social Security Office:

1-800-772-1213



The **Veterans United Outreach of Delaware** was started in May 2001, under Kent County Chapter 850, Vietnam Veterans of America. The VVA motto is “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.” This motto has been taken to heart by those who started the outreach program. The purpose of this program is to reach out to all military/veteran brothers and sisters on educational, physical, mental, emotional and spiritual levels, so as to guide them to freedom and comfort in their own lives. They work with all who are willing to help accomplish their goals.

The Outreach networks with federal, state and local agencies and coordinates with all organizations in Delaware. Through it all, they are constantly changing and growing.

They are a veterans committee with a foundation in God, Country, and Freedom, to which they credit the sacrifices of our active duty military, our veterans, and their families. (Mike Snyder, 302-678-1285)

DCVA: VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

New Castle County: Ms. Natasha Scott-Knight
Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, DE
Monday – Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Please call for appointment: (302) 365-8231

Kent County:
DCVA office in Dover, DE
Monday–Friday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Please call for an appointment: (302) 257-3119

Sussex County: Ms. Laurie Corsa
Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Millsboro, DE
Monday-Friday: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Please call for an appointment: (302) 648-3068

American Legion

Joseph T. Houghton
Dept. Service Officer:
(302) 993-7255



2017 Scheduled Post Visits:

Friday, Apr. 7th:
Oak Orchard/Riverdale/Post #28-Millsboro
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 945-1673

Friday, Apr. 14th:
Walter L Fox/Post #2-Dover
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 674-3922

Friday, May 5th:
Oak Orchard/Riverdale/Post #28-Millsboro
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 945-1673

Thursday, May 12th:
Walter L Fox/ Post #2 –Dover
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 674-3922

Friday, June 2nd:
Oak Orchard/Riverdale/Post #28-Millsboro
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 945-1673

Friday, June 9th:
Walter L Fox/ Post #2 –Dover
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 674-3922

Friday, June 16th:
Post #7—Lewes
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 645-9965

**Times/dates are subject to change.*

Disabled American Veterans:

DAV Dept. Service Officers: (302) 697-9061
Paul Lardizzone: (302) 382-3448
H. Mark Wischman: (302) 382-3449

Kent County Schedule:
DAV Headquarters Building
183 South Street
Camden, DE 19934



Monday thru Thursday 8:00-11:00 AM (*Walk-ins*)
1:00-3:00 PM (*Appt. only*)

Sussex County Schedule:
Department of Labor - Div. of Employment & Tng.
20093 Office Circle, Georgetown, DE 19947

(302) 856-5230: Thursday 8:00-12:00 PM (*Walk-ins*)

Kent & Sussex evening appointments prescheduled by request only.



Paralyzed Veterans of America (DE/MD PVA)

VA Regional Office
1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 26
Wilmington, DE 19805 (302) 993-7252/7253

2114 S DuPont Hwy, Suite 2, Dover DE
Thursdays: 8:00 AM - 12 PM

Dover CBOC: 1st & 3rd Thursdays: 1PM – 4PM

Georgetown CBOC : 2nd & 4th Thurs. 1PM – 4PM

Purple Heart NSO (MOPH)

Cheryl Yard, Nat'l Service Officer
VA Regional Office
1601 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, DE 19805
M-F 8:30 to 4:00: (302) 993-7263
Walk-ins welcome.



Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

David Hilliard, VA Regional Office
1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 21,
Wilmington, DE 19805



*(302) 993-7260 *Please call for appointments.*

1st – 4 th Thursday	8:30-11:30 AM
Dover DOL	(302) 993-7260
1 st Thursday	1:30-4:00 PM
Blue Hen VFW Post 6483	(302) 422-4412
2 nd & 4 th Thursday	1:30-4:00 PM
Virgil Wilson VFW Post 4961	(302) 629-3092
3rd Thursday	1:30-4:00 PM
Rehoboth VFW	(302) 227-3469

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Terry Baker: National Service Officer
VA Regional Office
1601 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, DE 19805
(302) 993-7250/7251 or (302) 540-8772 (c)



DELAWARE VETERANS HOME

100 Delaware Veterans Blvd
Milford, DE 19963
(302) 424-6000: Bill Peterson



HOME OF THE BRAVE



Main Office: (302) 424-1681
Jessica Finan (Executive Director)
Denise Dudley (Case Manager)

**DCVA's
DELAWARE JOINING FORCES**

Christine F. Kubik
DE Nat'l Guard
Community Relations
(302) 326-7582
christine.f.kubik.nfg@mail.mil



*Please visit our website
www.delaware.gov/djff/*

DE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERIES

Bear Cemetery

2465 Chesapeake City Road
Bear, DE 19701

(302) 834-8046: Barbara A. Cooke

Millsboro Cemetery

26669 Patriots Way
Millsboro, DE 19966

(302) 934-5653: Gregory A. Bee



Employment Services:

Cleopatra Jones (Wilmington): (302) 761-8077
Allen Jones (Wilmington): (302) 761-8141
Lisa Smith (Newark): (302) 451-3457
Cliff Rumph (Dover): (302) 857-5866
Kevin Gunning (Dover) : (302) 857-5870
Gail Gartner (Georgetown): (302) 858-5232
Division of Vocational Rehab. : (302) 761-8275



Wilmington Regional Benefit Office

1601 Kirkwood Highway
Wilmington, DE 19805
(800) 827-1000

<http://www.wilmington.va.gov/>

Patient Advocate: (302) 633-5556

****For all medical facilities***

VA Medical Center

1601 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, DE 19805
(800) 461-8262 or (302) 994-2511



Dover VA -CBOC
1198 S. Governors Ave
Dover, DE 19904
(800) 461-8262 x 2400

Georgetown VA –CBOC
15 Georgetown Plaza
Georgetown, DE 19947
(800) 461-8262 x 2300



Veterans Outreach Programs:

People’s Place: Listening Post Lower Delaware
Mike Rowe: (302) 422-8033 x 173

SSVF: Supportive Services for Veteran Families
Connections:
(302) 250-5868 New Castle Co:
(302) 518-5338 Kent Co. - Mindy Bacchus
(302) 332-0913 Sussex Co. - Gary Boas

VMC -Veterans Multi-Service Center:
Paula Witcher: (302) 505-0849

Vet. Centers (Readjustment Counseling):
Vet Center/New Castle Co: (800) 461-8262 x 5434
Vet Center/Kent Co: (800) 461-8262 x 2430
Vet Center/Sussex Co: (302) 225-9110

Delaware Veterans Awareness Center:
Liz Byers: (302) 349-4898
*Veterans’ Stand Down * Military Women’s Tea **
“Give a Vet a Smile” (Dental Program)
Veteransawarenesscenter.org

Retired Activities Office:
Bldg. 520, Room 105
Dover AFB, DE 19902
MSgt (R) Bill Oldham: (302) 677- 4610
(William.Oldham.2@us.af.mil)

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office:
Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Ctr.
(866) 827-5672



William C. Farley (Chairman).....MCL
Angela F. Showell (Vice Chair)..... At Large
Charles T. Armbruster.....American Legion
Charles W. Baldwin.....VVA
Eugene Bradley.....AMVETS
Dr. Daniel Coons.....KWVA
Paul Lardizzone DAV
Richard Magner.....MOPH
John Hampton..... At Large
William “Bill” McMullen.....AFSA
Mark Newman.....VFW
Barry Newstadt.....At Large
Dr. Ronald Sarg.....MOAA
Earl E. Seppala.....MOWW
MyRon W. Smith.....DELVETS

Air Force Sergeants Association
Bill McMullen.....(302) 697-9750

American Legion
Richard “Ric” Santos..... (302) 628-5221

AMVETS
Eugene Bradley..... (302) 945-2170

Colonial Paralyzed Veterans of America
Ron Hoskins..... (302) 861-6671

Delaware Veterans Coalition
Dave Skocik..... (302) 736-8500
E-mail: delawareveteranscoalition@gmail.com

Disabled American Veterans
Paul Lardizzone..... (302) 697-9061

First State Military Women Warriors
Paula Witcher..... (302) 505-0849

Fleet Reserve Association
Philip Pushel..... (302) 322-0681

Gold Star Families
Judy Campbell..... (302) 593-5991

Gold Star Mothers
Judith Faunce..... (302) 475-8272

40 & 8
Eugene “Chip” Rosan..... (302) 678-8077

Jewish War Veterans
Len Markovitz..... (302) 234-4785

Korean War Veterans Association
Dan Coons..... (302) 697-3079

Marine Corps League
William C. Farley..... (302) 242-7926

Military Officers Association of America
Tom Kelly (New Castle Co.)..... (302) 834-9659
Ron Sarg (Kent Co.)..... (302) 678-1603
Fred Seth, Jr. (Sussex Co.)..... (302) 519-0611

Military Order of the Purple Heart
Gary “Mo” Morris.....(302) 422-6760

Military Order of the World Wars
Earl Seppala..... (302) 239-0641
E-mail: eseppala@aol.com

Nat’l Association of Black Veterans
Nolan S. Lewis..... (302) 345-6911

The Reserve Officers Association
LTC Richard Chappell (Ret)..... (302) 234-1418
E-mail: rwc49ps54ud@comcast.net

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Paul Phillips Jr..... (302) 656-5022

Vietnam Veterans of America
Paul Davis..... (302) 697-8384



DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Certificate of Appreciation Application

Veterans Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work or Cell) _____

Date Entered Service _____ Date Separated _____ Branch of Service _____

Date of Birth _____ Type of Discharge _____ Highest Rank Achieved _____
(Only required if requesting rank on certificate)

Is Veteran Deceased? Yes or No (please circle one)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: A current resident of the State of Delaware or resident when he or she entered the Armed Forces of the United States and honorably discharged.

Please submit this application with a copy of Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, (DD-214) to:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs
Robbins Building
802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE 19904
Phone: (302) 739-2792 or 1-800-344-9900 (in State only)

Signature of Veteran/spouse or next of kin _____ Date _____

Print Name and Relationship if not veteran _____

Provide alternate address if different from above _____

NOTE: Please anticipate 2 to 3 weeks in receiving your Certificate

TO BE COMPLETED BY DCVA: ___ Approved ___ Pending ___ Disapproved

Name/Title: _____ Date _____

The “DCVA Newsletter” is published for informational purposes only and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission of Veterans Affairs or the State of Delaware.

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The “DCVA Newsletter” is now distributed electronically. To receive your copy by email, subscribe at our web site: www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov. To obtain a hard copy of the newsletter, visit one of our office locations or your local veterans post home.

STATE OF DELAWARE

“Veterans First in the First State”



DCVA 20-01-02-17-04-01