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DCVA

Newsletter 2017

Volume 24—Issue 1

Happy New Year!

New Castle * Kent * Sussex * New Castle * Kent * Sussex * New Castle * Kent * Sussex * New Castle * Kent * Sussex

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Director's Corner

How often do you remember your time in uniform? Is it something you avoid or is it something you cherish. Our time in uniform makes us unique in the fact that we swore to defend our country. There are not many citizens who can make that statement, so I ask you to hold your Veteran status in high regard. You should hold it high, because your time in service gave you insight on Service Before Self. You should hold it high, because it established a bond with fellow Service Members that should not be broken. You should hold it high, because you stand as an example to our citizens on what it is like to sacrifice. Your Veteran status is worth more than receiving store discounts and receiving free meals. It is worth understanding what you did for our country and keeping it near to your heart.

During my state travels I am fortunate to hear your stories of service. I am privileged to speak with Korean War Veterans who share their actions on foreign soil. I am captivated by Vietnam War Veterans who greet one another with "Welcome Home." I am encouraged by our recent era (Iraq/Afghanistan) Veterans who ask, "how can we be more effective as Veterans?" I ask that you continue to share your stories so that citizens will know the true meaning of Veteran. I ask that you take your Veteran status seriously and not think of it as a way to gain privileges. Finally, I ask that you keep our country in your prayers so that Veterans and citizens continue to enjoy their freedom.

CHARLES WILLIAM KEITHLEY



Former Commissioner Charles William Keithley, age 76, of Newark, DE passed away peacefully at home on November 3, 2016. He was on the DCVA board from 2009 to 2013. Chuck served his country with honor in the U.S. Coast Guard.

He retired from Preston Trucking Company after 28 years of service. Chuck was a Past Commander of the American Legion, Post 14 of Smyrna, DE and was a member of the 40/8 Club.

He is survived by his three children, Chuck, William and Heather; a granddaughter, Layla; his brother, Alan; and his sister, Patty.

<http://www.fariesfuneralhomes.com/>



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2016

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 83 and Delaware Law Enforcement teamed-up to welcome Wreaths Across America as they travelled through the State of Delaware on their way to Arlington National Cemetery to place wreaths on the graves of our Nations fallen heroes.

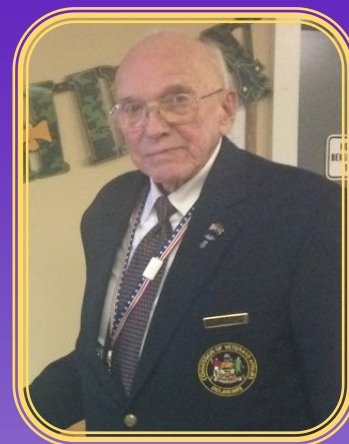
Delaware indeed leads the way on how to unite and pay honor and remembrance. The participants in this extraordinary service, which was held at the Smyrna Rest Area in Smyrna Delaware on Thursday, December 15, 2016, were many, but not limited to the following:

Delaware Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Fathers, Gold Star Wives, Gold Star Siblings and Gold Star Children, MG Frank Vavala, Delaware National Guard, Colonel Dawn Lancaster, AFMAO/CC, CMSgt Meshelle Dyer, AFMAO/CC, Delaware State Police, Delaware State Fire and Chiefs Association, Christiana High School NJROTC, Dover High School AFJROTC, Wilmington Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Mission BBQ, Ambulance Service-Station 64, DelDot, Hogs and Heroes Foundation, Second Brigade Motorcycle Club, Patriot Guard Riders, Patrick Hughes, USMC, VVA State Council, VVA Coalition and United Way of Delaware.

Wreaths Across America's program is to REMEMBER – HONOR – TEACH and Delaware was honored to present Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths Across America with a House Tribute via the kindness of Representative Earl G. Jaques, Jr.

A heartfelt thank you, to all the participants that made this service possible and to Delaware, for continuing to lead the way! *(Respectfully submitted, Judy C. Campbell, Delaware Gold Star Representative)*





Cornelius C. (Bill) Carroll passed away January 6, 2017 at a Nursing Home in Wilmington DE at the age of 91. He was born November 6, 1925 in Boothwyn, PA, to the late Cornelius C. J. Carroll and Emma Mae Gill Carroll.

He attended Boothwyn High School. He was very active all his life and enjoyed rolling skating, camping, hunting, fishing and working on anything mechanical and would help anyone that needed a hand.

At about the age of 14 he started working at Bergdoll Dairy in Delaware County, PA as a Pasteurizer and was there until 1964. In between those years he served in the Army during WWII (European Theater) from 1944 to 1946 where he was wounded in Germany thus receiving the Purple Heart Medal. He attained the rank of Master Sergeant. After the service he was in the National Guard until 1950. He was reactivated in 1950 for the CID until 1951. While in the National Guard he worked part time at the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington. In 1964 he began full-time employment at E. I. du Pont de Nemours in the Hotel Division where he was a Manager of Food Services and Vending Operations at several DuPont Facilities. He retired from DuPont in 1985.

After retirement he became very active as a Veterans Advocate. He joined the Military Order of the Purple Heart where he served as the Chapter Adjutant, Department Commander and Department Adjutant. He also served the Chapter and Department in many other non-elective offices. He was appointed as a Commissioner representing the Purple Heart Organization on the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs for some 15 years until his passing.

While serving on the Commission he was also on the steering committee charged with designing and overseeing the building of the new Delaware Veterans Home located in Milford DE. These roles have allowed him the opportunity to assist veterans with their entitled benefits in the Tri-State area.

Bill is survived by his wife, Joan W. Carroll, to whom he was married for 56 years and his son from this marriage David (Anne). He is also survived by the children with his prior wife (Marion DeGraw Carroll): Barbara Cole (Charles) from Elkton MD, Patricia Stevens (Michael) from Palmdale CA, Thomas Carroll (Claudia) from Lee's Summit, MO. Grandchildren Benjamin Carroll, Angela Rennison (Graham), Charles Cole III (finance Haley Peoples), Yvonne Cole, Robert Carter Jr (Lora) and Rachael Werning along with 11 great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother James G. Carroll and a son Cornelius "Con" Carroll, Jr.

Visitation will take place 6:00 P.M. to 8 P.M. on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at McCreary and Harra Funeral Home, 3710 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19808. Burial services will be Tuesday, January 17th starting at 12:30 P.M. from the funeral home with commitment at Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 2465 Chesapeake City Rd, Bear, DE 19701 at 2:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the Military Order of Purple Heart, Chapter 9377, 320 Woodale Avenue, New Castle DE 19720-4738.

YMCA CHRISTMAS ANGELS SPONSOR DELAWARE WOUNDED WARRIORS 2016



THERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF SANTA CLAUS IN ALL OF US

Pictured above, William Gay, Joan Wallace, Dan Kinsella, Martha Badrian, and Pat Morris



Sussex Family, Delaware YMCA Christmas Angels ensure Wounded Warrior families have an extra special Holiday! YMCA Staff eagerly picked their anonymous Wounded Warrior families off of their Christmas tree. They sponsored over 70 families with gifts for the children, a food basket filled with donations from local Rehoboth retailers, plants, and special Holiday wishes. Each family pet even received their own Christmas bag! They hand delivered to over 70 families sponsored. Some Wounded Warrior families were so grateful that they hand delivered to other families. Special thanks to members of the Sussex Delaware Military 4H Club for hand crafting the military pillows. Communities truly came together and brought extra special Holiday Wishes to these families who have consistently expressed how truly appreciative they are of the sponsorship and overwhelming generosity.

Written by AW2 Advocate, Anna M. Lopez



ORTHODONTICS ON SILVER LAKE SPONSORS TRUST FUND

Dr. Stephanie Steckel, Annabel Robinson, and Megan Frattarelli of Orthodontics on Silver Lake, Dover, pose with Christmas Tree No. 6 on display at Grotto Pizza in Dover. The dental practice sponsored the tree on behalf of the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund, which helps Delaware veterans in emergency financial need. Visitors voted for sponsored trees for a \$1 fee deposit.

(December 11, 2016, Delaware State News)



MICHELLE OBAMA HIGHLIGHTS DOVER'S WORK FOR HOMELESS VETS

Mayor Robin Christiansen has said from the beginning that Dover's efforts in the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness should be held up as a success story. The Obama administration recognized Dover's accomplishments on Monday as Christiansen and other city officials, as well as Maj. Bill Farley, chairman of the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, were invited to the White House to be recognized for a job well done.

Announced by First Lady Michelle Obama in 2014, the program is a continued call to action for mayors across the country to make a commitment to ending veteran homelessness. "It was a great day for Dover and for the state of Delaware," said Christiansen, who attended the Summit on Ending Veteran Homelessness. "I'm still walking on a cloud today. To be recognized for our efforts to get every homeless veteran permanent housing is a testament to all the hard work city staff and our partners throughout the city have done. All of us joined together to make this happen."

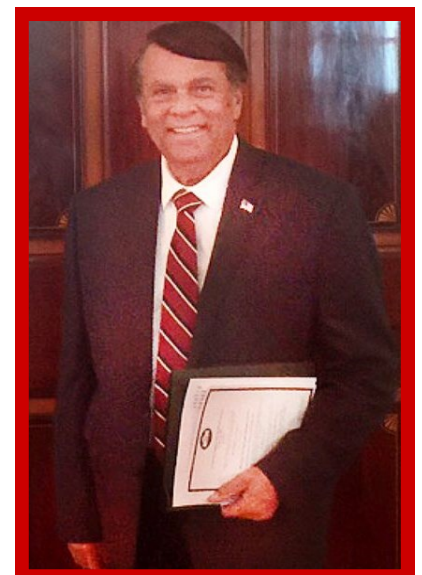
Christiansen said the highlight of the day was talking with First Lady Obama and Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden about the Mayors Challenge during the roundtable attended by about 175 people from across the nation. Dover was recognized as only the third state in the nation to vanquish veteran homelessness and to meet goals set out in the Mayors Challenge.

"It was a real honor hearing the First Lady mention Dover in her opening remarks," Christiansen said. "She told us that while the Obamas are leaving office, she was hopeful that legacy would continue through the next administration." Christiansen said he and the city share in the vision spelled out in the Mayors Challenge that local leaders will marshal federal, local and nonprofit efforts to end veteran homelessness in their communities. The goal is to get to a point where there are no veterans sleeping in the streets and every veteran has access to permanent housing. The effort in Dover got rolling in fall 2014 when Christiansen and city officials met with Farley. From that meeting came the goal of housing as many veterans in Dover as possible. Since the program started, 415 homeless veterans across the state were identified and found rapid housing. Christiansen was quick to say that the housing is permanent and not veterans being put up in shelters.

"We made veterans part of the team and talked to people face-to-face," Farley said. "That's how you get things done. Everyone in the state should be proud of this effort." In Dover, 89 veterans and their families have been housed to date during the past 18 months. Christiansen and city officials believe the template Dover has been using to address the veteran homeless problem will work across the board with all the city's homeless. By continuing to work with the Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing, The Shepherd Place, Code Purple, Whatcoat Social Services, area churches and other city agencies, Christiansen believes the homeless problem in Dover can eventually be solved. We're not going to stop working until it is," he said.



Chairman Farley with HUD Regional Dir. Jane Vincent



Mayor Christiansen in the White House making his way to the event

(Jerry Smith, The News Journal 7:30 p.m. EST November 15, 2016)

MILITARY VETS BRING VALUED SKILLS TO THE WORKPLACE AT CHRISTIANA CARE

Great employees are dedicated, adaptable and disciplined, characteristics that are personified in individuals who have served in the military.



Panelists and participants at “Leveraging the Talent of Your Vets” spoke about the strengths military veterans bring to the workplace.

“Leveraging the Talent of Your Vets” was the topic of a Christiana Care Multicultural Heritage Committee event at the John H. Ammon Medical Education Center on Nov. 9. The speaker was Lola Osawe, MHSA, FACHE, FACMPE, administrative director of the Breast Center and an Air Force reservist.

In addition to the skills they learn in the military, veterans bring “adaptability, resiliency and stick-to-it-tiveness” to the workplace, she said. “That toughness you learn in the field isn’t something you can put on a resume. In an intense clinical environment, that is who you want on your team.” Three military veterans who work at Christiana Care participated in a panel discussion. Christine Kubik, who leads Delaware Joining Forces, a network of agencies and external service providers who work to improve life for veterans, moderated the discussion.

Vets bring both diversity and transferable skills to the workplace, said Dana Beckton, director, Diversity and Inclusion at Christiana Care. In an era of sweeping health care reform, Osawe said vets are uniquely positioned to aid in the transition. “Change is the new normal, and veterans have always been bridge builders because of their resiliency,” she said. “Integrity first, service before self, excellence in all we do: those are values that transfer in whatever work we do.” Audrey C. Van Luven, senior vice president and chief human resources officer, is an Honorary Commander in the Delaware National Guard. She said that Christiana Care is committed to helping veterans, transitioning service members and military spouses find meaningful employment. From 2014 through 2015, Christiana Care hired more than 60 veterans. *(Courtesy of Christiana Care Health System, Nov. 2016)*

DMHEF TO OPEN DOORS TO NEW MUSEUM, LIBRARY, AND ARCHIVE IN APRIL

The Delaware Military Heritage and Education Foundation is very pleased to announce that we have at last found a permanent home for our Delaware Military Museum. It is at the Wilmington National Guard Readiness Center, co-located with the Mid-County Senior Center and the Delaware Army National Guard on First Regiment Road at the former Laura Little School within Arundel development off McKennan’s Church Road.

Our museum planning committee has an ambitious goal of opening to the public in April 2017 with a museum, library, and archive. Our first temporary exhibit will celebrate the centennial of World War I. Eventually our museum will display the contributions of Delaware Veterans to the defense of our state and nation from Colonial times to the present. We haven’t the time, resources or manpower to do it all at once, so it will be developed in stages.

We’re going to need a lot of volunteer help to really get this project off the ground. Are you a history buff, carpenter, organizer, painter, librarian, coordinator, grant writer, archivist, cataloger, designer, computer whiz, accountant, graphic artist, web builder, or audio-visual expert? If you have skills - we can use them to get this exciting venture moving forward! Our team is on-site every Wednesday morning from 10-12 (except holiday periods). Stop by and we’ll put you to work, or contact Ken Wiggins at kennard.wiggins@gmail.com. *(December 5, 2016, Kennard Wiggins)*

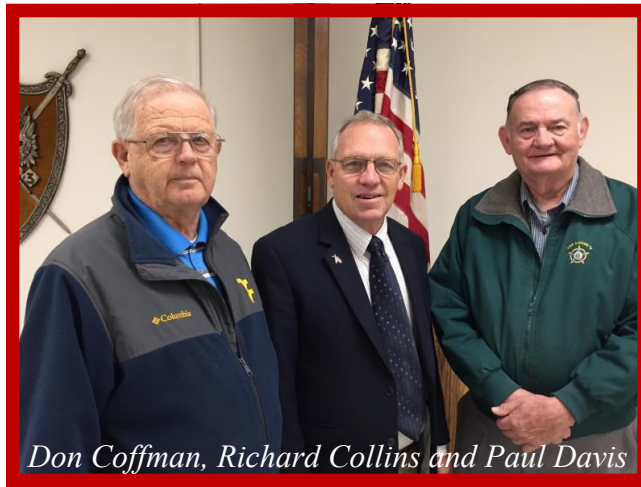


NEW FOUNTAIN AT MILLSBORO CEMETERY

On November 10th 2016 Turf Equipment and Supply along with Big Boulder Pond Co., Aqua Scape, Shady Oak Farms, Parker Block and Plant Retrievers Nursery completed a fountain project together as a training aid. This project was dedicated to all Veterans here at our facility for Veterans Day 2016. They did a fantastic job with this fountain and it cost the taxpayers absolutely nothing. We will be adding a sidewalk around the entire area and later we will be placing concrete benches for all to enjoy. I would like everyone to know how much we here appreciate what they have done; this is a \$7000.00 fountain project that was done at no cost to us. Thank You.

(Greg Bee, Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery (MILLSBORO) 12/8/2016)

REP RICHARD COLLINS SPEAKS TO DELAWARE VETERANS COALITION



Don Coffman, Richard Collins and Paul Davis

Rep. Richard Collins, R-Millsboro, addressed the meeting of the Delaware Veterans Coalition at FOP Lodge No. 3, Kitts Hummock Oct. 29. Collins, who sponsored the Stolen Valor legislation in 2015, spoke about the law which was signed into effect last August by Gov. Jack Markell.

The law makes anyone who impersonates a military veteran or who enhances military awards for monetary gain subject to a minimum fine of \$1,000. Examples include applying for disability benefits or employment, or soliciting money while posing as a military veteran. *(Dec 11, 2016, Cape Gazette)*

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY JUNIOR MEMBER RECEIVES GRANT FOR HOME OF THE BRAVE 2017 BBQ OAK ORCHARD RIVERDALE UNIT 28 MILLSBORO, DE

"In July American Legion Auxiliary Unit 28 reported that Junior member, Jeanne Haverhill, 2016 Miss Mid-Atlantic States Teen, hosted a BBQ at Home of the Brave for the residents. I am happy to report that Jeanne has been selected by Walt Disney Company to receive one of the Youth Service Awards 2016 Summer of Service grants in the amount of \$500 to be used next year for another BBQ at HOB. Disney stated that they received an overwhelming number of wonderful applications but her project with Home of the Brave Foundation stood out to them as one of the best.

The American Legion Auxiliary congratulates Jeanne and are proud she is a member of our organization." *(Beth McGinn, American Legion Auxiliary)*

For more information, please feel free to contact Beth McGinn|2016-2017 National Security Chairman, American Legion Auxiliary|Nearly 100 yrs. of Service, Not Self, beth1011@msn.com|www.AL4forVeterans.org Cell: 302.381.3897



DELAWARE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Pictured: Dan Tidwell; David Strawbridge, Delaware Tech director of military and veterans services; Dr. Melissa Rakes, Delaware Tech, Owens Campus Dean of Student Affairs and Dave Tidwell.

DEL TECH GETTING A HEAD START ON 2017

Delaware Technical Community College is set to start 2017 with incredible momentum. For the third year in a row, Delaware Tech has been selected as a Military Friendly® School. This award is presented to the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that embrace military students and dedicate resources to ensure their success in the classroom and after graduation. Also in 2017, a Veteran Resource Center (VRC) will be established at the Charles L. Terry Campus in Dover. The Navient Foundation contributed \$22,000 to Delaware Tech to establish this VRC and the center will host guest speakers and student veteran programs such as financial education, career workshops and Post Traumatic Stress seminars. It also will provide a meeting space for student veterans to study, relax and engage with fellow veterans, and for the Veterans Inspiring Progress student organization which offers support and networking for the campus veteran community. Navient, headquartered in Delaware, supports U.S. military members and veterans through ongoing hiring efforts, an employee-led Veterans Resource Group and customer service. And at the Jack F. Owens Campus in Georgetown, Dan and Dave Tidwell, two former U.S. Marines and twin brothers who returned to Delaware in the late 1960's and who began their education at Delaware Tech, have donated \$20,000 to establish the Tidwell Family Scholarship Endowment. This endowment will support the greatest needs of student Veterans who, upon completing their service, turn to education to prepare for a new career. The scholarship will be awarded to student Veterans enrolled in degree, diploma or certificate programs at the Owens Campus in Georgetown beginning in the spring 2017 semester. In addition to establishing the endowed scholarship, the Tidwell brothers are leading the effort to raise \$25,000 for a Veteran Resource Center at the Owens Campus. (12/16, D. Strawbridge)

BILL CARR CHAPTER, NO.013, SUSSEX COUNTY DELAWARE

Recently we hosted the founders of the Veterans' Awareness Center Foundation at a chapter meeting. The Mission of the Foundation is to assist all Delaware Veterans achieve self sufficiency through information and service. For example, there is help for employment searches, educational benefits, emergency funding referrals and personalized self-help programs. In addition, the foundation provides military and dress for success clothing and Thanksgiving dinner distribution among many other things.

The Foundation recently ran the 2016 Delaware Veterans' Stand Down in September which was a resounding success. Over 120 Veterans Service Providers had tables and facilities to assist vets that included dental care, flu shots, legal, financial and educational services to over 1200 veterans that attended.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Foundation and/or the Chapter, please call Jack McGinley at 302 945 0698 or at this email address jomcginl@aol.com.



Liz Byers-Jiron, Executive Director, Bill Jiron, Founder and Program Director of the Foundation and Dr. Dan Coons, DCVA Commissioner, also with KWVA .

The Wilmington Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) is actively working to improve quality, access and Veteran satisfaction, key indicators of quality measured by the Agency. Significant progress to improve staffing, systems and processes has been achieved over the past 60 days.

The most recent Veteran Health Administration (VHA) release of the Strategic Analytics for Information and Learning (SAIL) report identified Wilmington as a two-star organization, unchanged from the previous quarter's release in April. The SAIL report is a VA specific, comprehensive measurement tool which compares 10 domains of quality with 27 metrics, many of which have multiple components. Individual medical centers use the SAIL to identify areas of high performance and provide valuable information regarding opportunities for improvement. SAIL is a comparative tool, not a benchmark tool, meaning that quality metrics are evaluated and compared across all VA Medical Centers, resulting in a stratified, star ranking system. In that system a five-star equals the top 20 percent compared to a one-star that is in the lowest 20 percent. Not limited to objective clinical data, the SAIL report also incorporates satisfaction and perceptions of care from veterans who receive care and the employees who provide it (e.g., patient satisfaction, access to care, and employee satisfaction). This framework far exceeds the community standard of measuring quality and patient outcomes.

Based on the most recent data, Wilmington VAMC performs in the top 20 percent of all VA medical centers in the Efficiency and Mental Health domains. The facility performs aver-



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

age or better in Mortality, Call Responsiveness, Access to Primary Care, Technical Quality of both Inpatient and Outpatient Care, and Veteran Satisfaction. SAIL is valuable to identify strong practices, and also allows medical centers to identify areas of opportunity. Because SAIL is a comparative tool used across all VA facilities, there are many opportunities for idea sharing, best practices, and collaborative exchanges.

Opportunities for Wilmington VA include Employee Satisfaction, Mental Health Wait Times, Nurse Turnover, Care Transitions, Length of Stay and Utilization Management. While SAIL is specific to only VA facilities, Wilmington VA compares very well to private healthcare organizations in the community. The CMS Hospital Compare website indicated last year Wilmington VA was as good or better than community facilities in the three areas where direct comparison infection data is available (catheter associated bloodstream infection, central line associated blood stream infections and methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus [MRSA] blood infections).

The Wilmington VA is aggressively addressing improvements through several key initiatives focused on improving systems, structures, processes, and people to integrate quality in every service and aspect of care provided at the medical center and our community based clinics.

Bob Callahan, interim director of the Wilmington VAMC notes that, "Improved access and high quality are our principle outcomes, we are

working to provide care when, where and how the Veteran needs it." Vince Kane, interim associate director said, "Additional employees have been and continue to be recruited. Since Sept. 1, an additional 47 clinical positions, nine of which are mental health professionals have been successfully recruited to improve wait times and quality in primary care and mental health. This includes adding more psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, and social workers at the medical center and in our five Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) which are located in lower Delaware and southern New Jersey. More are being recruited to expand care."

To further improve wait times for urgent primary and mental healthcare, the medical center committed to and achieved "same day services." A veteran calling or presenting with a need for care right away will have that need addressed on the same day. The care may be provided by an available provider, by a nurse, clinical pharmacist, through a phone call, MyHealthVet connection or appropriately scheduled. Additionally, the medical center recently implemented direct scheduling of audiology and optometry appointments, eliminating a delay by the veteran needing to be seen by a primary care provider first and then be referred to the specialty clinic. This improvement frees up appointments in Primary Care and allows veterans to be seen sooner while also improving the Veteran's experience.

The Care Transition domain evaluates the management of medical conditions and care coordination in

Continue next page...

the effort to avoid inpatient hospitalizations. Length of Stay and Utilization Management evaluate how long a veteran is admitted to the hospital and if the level of care they are receiving is appropriate. To improve this area, the medical center recently developed an interdisciplinary team that collaborates daily with the veteran and or family members to safely plan and navigate the patient's care and discharge process. The medical center is also adding clinical quality and informatics specialists throughout its clinical service lines to focus on streamlining care delivery, removing barriers and system improvements identified by front line clinicians. As a result, performance will continue to improve.

The Employee Satisfaction domain is measured through results from an annual All Employee Survey and by examining trends in employee turnover rates. "We need to listen to, act upon ideas, remove barriers and take care of our employees," said Callahan during a recent all employee town hall meeting. "The leadership team is taking a multi-faceted approach to improving employee satisfaction. The beginning step is for each department to develop meaningful, department-specific plans to address issues identified by their employees. The organization is making a commitment to expand professional growth opportunities through training, mentoring, and career growth positions." The leadership team is also focused on communicating vital information to all staff through Town Hall meetings, acting upon employee suggested changes and regular rounding, both at the medical center and in the community.

"Employees are our best source of information. They know what sys-

tems work and what doesn't work," said Callahan. "Our job is to empower our staff to make changes, exercise principles when rules don't get to the desired outcome. This is a new leadership paradigm we have to embrace. We have some great employees working hard every day to care for veterans, we are focusing on system improvements which will make their jobs easier, more meaningful with improved outcomes. The Wilmington VAMC is committed to providing the best care possible to the veterans who have made the VA their health care provider of choice." Expanding care available in the community is a key priority and is being achieved by supporting more VA specialty clinics in the community and by purchasing care available in the community through provider agreements. Over the past two months, 39 new provider agreements in Delaware and Southern New Jersey were added, with an additional 247 agreements in process of completion. Provider agreements are used by the Wilmington VA when the national contractor is unable or not timely to locate care in the community.

"VA has taken important steps to address and increase the size and scope of clinical services available in our lower Delaware and southern New Jersey CBOCs. Where VA can't provide certain services, we are expanding and offering options for care in the community with our community partners," said Kane.

"We know there is more work to be done, and that work will continue along the principles we've established, but progress has and continues to be made," said Callahan. "We will continue to be better listeners, hearing and responding to the needs of our veterans with real-time,

meaningful solutions that improve healthcare outcomes and the quality of life for our veterans and their families. The new strategic framework are being implemented adds uniformity, structure and consistency. The long term process, system improvements and additional staff being hired will take time to achieve measurable improvements."

(Oct 2016, James A. Coty, Public Affairs Officer, Wilmington VA Medical Center)

WILMINGTON VA ANNOUNCES DIRECT SCHEDULING

*Initiative Gets Veterans into
Optometry and Audiology
Appointments Quicker*

Veterans receiving care at the Wilmington VA Medical Center (VAMC) are now able to schedule routine appointments for the Optometry and Audiology clinics without a primary care referral – a move that eliminates multiple steps and gets Veterans into appointments quicker.

Before now, Veterans seeking appointments at the Optometry or Audiology clinic had to first make an appointment with a primary care provider and then they would be referred to one of these clinics for routine appointments. "This practice was outdated, increased the wait times for care, added to administrative work for clinicians, and produced a poor Veteran experience," said Robert W. Callahan, Jr, acting medical center director. "This week I visited the Eye Clinic and the Veterans I talked with are very satisfied with the new process."

“This is a win-win for Veterans receiving care at Wilmington. Veterans can pick-up the phone, call us and directly schedule an appointment with Optometry or Audiology. Primary care providers have more time to concentrate on direct patient care,” said Dr. Robert Boucher, chief of staff. “We look forward to continuing to provide world-class care for Veterans as we implement more ways to improve access to the care that Veterans have earned and deserve.”

The Audiology and Optometry Direct Scheduling Initiative is one of a number of efforts underway at Wilmington VA to improve Veterans’ access to care.

“As Wilmington VA continues to improve access to care, more and more Veterans are choosing to come to VA — they are choosing VA for the high quality of care, convenience, and for the cost-savings. While these improvements are very important, we recognize that we have more work to do,” said Callahan.

The Wilmington VA Medical Center is one of 168 medical centers in the nation with the sole purpose of providing world-class medical care to America’s Veterans. If you are a Veteran, you may be eligible to receive care and benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. To learn more call (800) 461-8262, ext. 4105 or visit www.wilmington.va.gov

Eye Clinic Direct Scheduling:
(800) 461-8262, ext. 4665

Audiology Direct Scheduling:
(800) 461-8262, ext. 5252

Prescription Drug Take-Back Effort A Big Success

This past weekend, Wilmington VA Medical Center (VAMC) participated in a “Prescription Drug Take Back” event to collect unused, expired or unwanted prescriptions. This was part of a national effort in which 27 locations across Delaware participated. The VA Medical Center collection site in Elsmere collected more than 150 pounds of medications during the four hour event.

“Availability of expired and especially unused prescription drug abuse is a serious patient safety concern. VA is proud to partner with the community for these events. By appropriately disposing of unused medications, we prevent them from getting into the wrong hands,” said Dr. Loan Vu, chief of pharmacy at the Wilmington VAMC.

The Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Initiative (NTBI) is held annually across the nation. According to the DEA website, in 2015, more than 3,800 federal, state and local organizations took in more than 702,365 pounds of unused, expired or unwanted drugs at more than 5,000 collection sites across the United States. Cumulatively since 2015, these events have collected 5,525,021 pounds of drugs. The total number of medications collected this year is expected to rise.

According to the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 6.5 million Americans abused controlled prescription drugs. That same study showed that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

“Receptacles for unused, expired or unwanted drugs will soon be at the Wilmington VA Medical Center Emergency Room entrance year round. Simply drop in your unwanted medications, no questioned asked. This is yet another way VA is helping to improve medication safety, reduce potential suicide and abuse of prescription medications,” said Robert Callahan, Acting Medical Center Director.

“The numbers are shocking—approximately 46,000 Americans die each year from drug-related deaths. More than half of those are from heroin and prescription opioids,” said Acting DEA Administrator Chuck Rosenberg. “With four out of five new heroin users starting with prescription medications, I know our take-back program makes a real difference.”

The Wilmington VA Medical Center is one of over 150 medical centers in the nation with the sole purpose of providing world-class medical care to America’s Veterans. If you are a Veteran, you may be eligible to receive care and benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. To learn more call (800) 461-8262, ext. 4105 or visit www.wilmington.va.gov

Community rallies to help creation of veterans center in Middletown

by Ben Mace, ben.mace@doverpost.com



Kevin Conley and his wife Tina have been overwhelmed by the response about the veterans center they are creating on South Broad Street in Middletown as part of their efforts of their “Warriors Helping Warriors” organization. “It’s just amazing—the outpouring of support,” said Kevin, a veteran of the Army National Guard who served several deployments overseas, the longest in Afghanistan.

The idea for the center began in 2014, while Kevin was recovering from injuries he suffered in the National Guard and from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). “We were taking care of the physical issues, but we realized the psychological scars were far worse,” said Tina. “We call them the invisible wounds. He still has nightmares.” Kevin’s cousin, who was a veteran, committed suicide, and two men who served with Kevin in the National Guard committed suicide.

“We had difficulty getting the help Kevin needed, and we had talked with many other families of veterans who said the same thing. We started meeting with them in their homes to show them what we had done and how to get help and we decided we were going to help however we could,” Tina said. “At first it was small things. We helped a family who needed a fence in their yard, someone who needed a garage door repaired, someone who needed a wheelchair ramp.” Then the Conleys started the “Warriors Helping Warriors” organization.

“Kevin and his father thought, ‘Hey, maybe we can go bigger,’ and then it just exploded,” Tina said. “We had people all over the country contacting us and asking for advice, asking us where to go for help or to put them in touch with someone who could help them. Now, all of that will be based in the first floor of the resilience center, a place where veterans and their families can get help.”

The center will be named the Brian Conley Resilience Center, after Kevin’s brother who died of a brain tumor at the age of 42. Brian was a teacher at Appoquinimink High School and the cross country coach at Goldey-Beacom College. “He fought cancer valiantly for two years,” said Kevin. “Brian showed such resilience in his battle, we thought what better way to honor him than to name the resilience center after him.”

For the entire story please visit Middletown Transcript:

*<http://www.middletowntranscript.com/news/20161020/community-rallies-to-help-creation-of-veterans-center-in-middletown>
There’s more on what the center will offer veterans, how UPS and Jr. ROTC got involved with helping this creation and even how you can also volunteer.*

*FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/WarriorsHWarriors/>
Warriors Helping Warriors*

*104 South Broad Street, Middletown, DE 19709
(302) 562-9033*

DELAWARE VETERANS TRUST FUND CHECK PRESENTATIONS

USA DANCE CONTRIBUTION

Wanda Spiering, president of USA Dance in Dover presents a \$600 donation to the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund to Dave Skocik, president of the Friends of Delaware Veterans, Inc. The money was raised with a 1950s style Sock Hop at the Moose, Camden, held on Veterans Day. The Friends is the fundraising organization of the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund. One hundred percent of contributions are passed to the Trust Fund to assist veterans in emergency situations and are tax deductible.



AMVETS CONTRIBUTION

Commission of Veterans Affairs Chairman Bill Farley accepted a \$500 donation from Christine Bradley of AmVets Post 2, Ladies Auxiliary on December 20, 2016 after the Commission's monthly board meeting.

One hundred percent of tax deductible contributions to the Trust Fund go to honorably discharged Delaware veterans in proven financial need.



VETERANS COALITION CONTRIBUTION

Don Coffman, treasurer of the Delaware Veterans Coalition, presents a \$500 check to Dave Skocik for the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund on December 26, at the Kent County Veterans Memorial Park in Dover. "We are grateful for this generous donation, especially as we wrap up end of year contributions," said Mr. Skocik.

MILFORD RURITANS CONTRIBUTE \$500 TO VETERANS TRUST FUND

The Milford Ruritan Club presented a \$500 check to the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund at its November 9 meeting. Ruritan is a civic organization that seeks to improve understanding among people through volunteer community service. Each club surveys its own community needs and then works to meet some of them. Their slogan is "Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service."



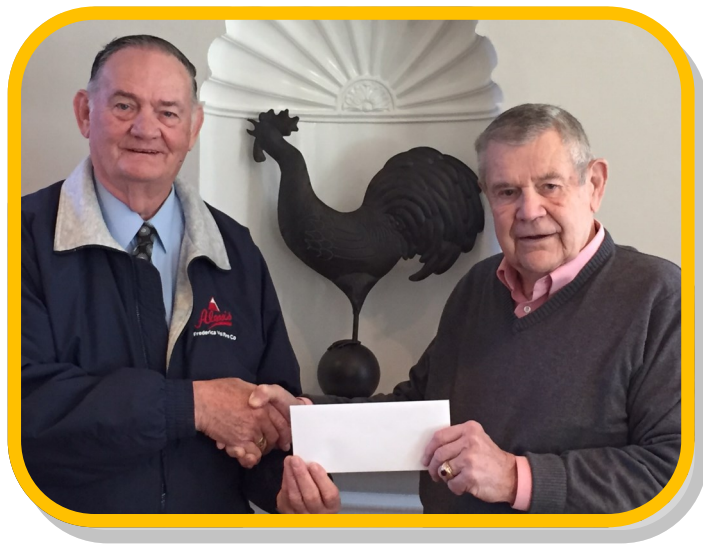
Dave Skocik, president of the Friends of Delaware Veterans; Tom Eliassen, Ruritan Club president; and Bill Farley, chairman of the DCVA.

The Veterans Trust Fund operates under the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs and is supported by the Friends of Delaware Veterans, Inc. The Friends, made up of volunteer community leaders from across the state, is the official fundraising organization of the Trust Fund and returns 100 percent of its proceeds to the Trust Fund. Contributions to the Trust Fund are tax deductible.

Visit www.DelawareVeteransTrustFund.com or call 302-257-3117 for information.

SOS CONTRIBUTES TO THE VETERANS TRUST FUND

Paul Davis, left, vice president of the Friends of Delaware Veterans, Inc., receives a \$5,000 donation from Barrett Kidner, director of Support Our Soldiers Foundation, on December 2. The Friends is the fundraising organization of the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund. One hundred percent of contributions are passed to the Trust Fund to assist veterans in emergency situations and are tax deductible.



DCVA Director, Larence Kirby, delivers Boscov's donated clothes to Connections Program Manager, Joni Patterson.

Events with the Veterans' Awareness Center Foundation

*Liz Byers-Jiron
Executive Director*



We invite you to attend the DE Veterans' Stand Down 2017 "Kick Off" Meeting on Thursday, January 26, 2017. The meeting will be held at the DE Commission of Veterans Affairs at 2:15 p.m.

The past eight Stand Downs have been huge successes, because of you! Please consider joining our committee to assist our Delaware Veterans.

We are once again honoring our Women Veterans' at a Tea designed for our Military Women. The fifth year for the Tea will be held at the DELVETS Post 2 in Dover on Pear Street. The date is being scheduled. Military Women if you would like to have your name posted to the guest list please call

302-349-4898.

Donations may be made for the Women Veterans' Tea
c/o Veterans' Awareness Center Foundation at
12385 Sussex Highway
Greenwood, DE19950



We have collaborated with the Delaware Dental Society to provide affordable dental service 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.

Members of the Wilmington Church of God, led by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick have collected donated items from Church members all year long, to contribute to the holiday surprises for veterans distributed by the Veterans' Awareness Center located in Greenwood, Delaware. In past years' members have handmade beautiful stockings and filled each with such care. Church members loved working together all year, but because of health issues, church members were unable to make handmade stockings for our veterans. As an alternative, to past year efforts the President and Owner, Mr. Mark Aitken of the Horizon Services located in Wilmington, jumped into action. Mr. Mark Aitken provided over six hundred back packs and items for the back packs that will assist our veterans thru the winter months. In addition to serving our Delaware veterans, the Fredericks will also take holiday back packs to Veterans at Walter Reed and have mailed back packs to Military Members serving around the World. Filling the back packs with great wishes were Church Members, contributing their time. Members as little as the Nursery

Class have contributed by creating pictures. "This special touch brings such joy to our veterans," stated Mrs. Liz Byers-Jiron, Director of the Foundation. The back packs are filled with over forty items including chap stick, tooth brushes and special Caps knitted by a very special lady, Ms. Shirley Clough. A member of the Wilmington Church of God at 87 years old says "knitting keeps her so busy and gives her a special purpose in life." Back packs are distributed to the Homeless Veterans in Shelters, Department of Labor, the VA, Vet Centers, Supportive Service for Veterans Organizations, Nursing homes and so



many other organizations to reach our veterans and provide a little bit of Pleasure for the Holidays. Thank you, Wilmington Church of God Members!

Veterans Apple Pie Social

Sunday November 13, 2016



George Taylor

Once again White Clay Creek State Park honored veterans at the Judge Morris Estate with a Veterans Apple Pie Social. Held at the former home of Judge Hugh Morris on Polly Drummond Hill Road every year the Sunday closest to Veterans Day this event is free and open to the public. WWII, Korean and other veterans shared their memorabilia and stories with more than 40 attendees over pie and coffee. Perkins Family Restaurant once again generously donated several delicious pies to support this valuable program.

Participants included:

- George Taylor, Korean War Vet and trumpeter, played the Star Spangled Banner and closed the program with Taps. George has played Taps at over 10,000 veteran services and events over the years.
- Robert Austin, US Marines, of Wilmington, reads his poem recalling the battle of Saipan.
- Bill Kitchen, WWII Navy veteran of New Castle, Kamikaze survivor, shared information about his experiences in the Pacific Theater.
- Don (Butch) Evans a WWII Army/Air Force Radar Technician joined the group this year to share his insights on the busy airstrip at Tinian.
- Al Lawler, Korean War veteran, set up a large display of weapons and soldier's uniform and essentials.
- Pat Cerchiro-Vieira of the First State Military Women Warriors brought information about this group and the many contributions made by women in the military. She asked that anyone with any historically relevant items consider donating them to a new military museum opening in the Wilmington area.
- James Kniskern, veteran and park volunteer, helped with the event. Richard Albertson, veteran and volunteer park photographer, took photos.
- Joe LaRosch again brought his restored 1944 WWII Jeep and invited WWII veterans to add their autographs on this mobile memorial.
- Donna Johnson read a new poem honoring her father, a veteran and all veterans.



Bob Austin

The **Veterans Day Apple Pie Social** is a special annual event that all are encouraged to attend: participate as a volunteer to share your stories and display your wartime memorabilia or join family and community members at the social to honor all veterans past and present.

If you are interested in participating in Veteran's Apple Pie Social 2017, please contact Kathleen Sullivan at the White Clay Creek State Park 302-368-6560 kathleen.sullivan@state.de.us



Don Evans



Bill Kitchen



Passing of the stories.



Swapping war stories-between generations.



Thank you Perkins Family Restaurant!



Judge Morris Estate



Thank you to all our volunteers!

Photos courtesy of Richard Albertson. Check out the event on FB.

Prevent cancer: get recommended screenings and do not smoke or vape

by the Division of Public Health

Routine cancer screenings can find cancer early, before it becomes a major health problem. Many types of cancer don't have symptoms, so it's important to have [regular screenings](#). Lung, breast, colorectal, prostate, and cervical cancer can be detected in their earliest stages and increase your odds of beating life-threatening cancers.

Lung cancer is the number-one cause of cancer death in Delaware. Smoking is the number-one risk factor for lung cancer. In the United States, cigarette smoking is linked to about 90 percent of lung cancers. Delawareans 18 years and older can get support and encouragement to quit smoking by contacting the Delaware Quitline at <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/dpc/quitline.html> or by calling toll-free: 1-866-409-1858. For three free ways to quit, visit the Healthy Delaware website, <https://www.healthylouisiana.org/Individuals/Tobacco/Quit>.

E-cigarette (vaping) mist can contain nicotine, which causes addiction, and harm developing adolescent brains. In Delaware, sales of e-cigarettes to teens are now banned, but concerns remain about illicit access. On December 8, 2016, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy released the report, *E-cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults*. The report states that e-cigarette use is “strongly associated with the use of other tobacco products among youth and young adults, including combustible tobacco products.” To read the report and get more information about e-cigarettes, visit <https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/resources.html>

If you are a current or former smoker, it is important to get screened for lung cancer.

You should be screened if you're a:

- Current smoker who has smoked a pack of cigarettes a day for the last 30 or more years; or two packs a day for the last 15 or more years
- Smoker who quit smoking within the last 15 years and smoked a pack of cigarettes a day for 30 or more years; or two packs a day for 15 or more years

Smoker or former smoker who is 55 to 80 years of age

Talk with your health care provider about the cancer screenings you need. You may submit an online request to have a nurse navigator contact you to [schedule a screening](#). Visit <https://www.healthylouisiana.org/Individuals/Programs/Nurse-Navigators?source=CancerLung>. Or, you can call a Nurse Navigator at a facility closest to you:

Bayhealth Medical Center: [302-430-5064](tel:302-430-5064)

Beebe Healthcare: [302-645-3169](tel:302-645-3169)

Christiana Care Health Services: [302-623-4651](tel:302-623-4651)

Nanticoke Health Services: [302-629-6611](tel:302-629-6611), ext. 3765

Saint Francis Hospital: [302-421-4986](tel:302-421-4986)

For more information on these topics, visit www.healthylouisiana.org or call the Comprehensive Cancer Control Branch at 302-744-1020.



Second Annual
Arctic Blast!

Promoting Veterans Mental Health Awareness
Sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3238 Camden, DE

Returns to beautiful Bowers Beach Delaware

12pm Saturday, January 21, 2017

Blast into the bay to support Veteran mental health awareness

Informational Exhibits, Vendors, 5K Run, Bay Plunge

Register at <https://www.crowdrise.com/arctic-blast1>

They served you, will you serve them?

Contact post3238cdr@gmail.com or call 302)423-2554 for more information.



Arctic Blast at Bowers Beach

Sponsored by VFW Post 3238

12pm Saturday, January 21, 2017

Vendor/Organization Application

Please Print Clearly

Activity Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Booth Type (Informational, Food, Other): Please write a brief description

Vendor is responsible for all individual set-up, including tents and canopies on the morning of Jan 21st. All tents and canopies will be located along the edges of the large boat access parking area between Clifton Cabbage Dr. and S. Flack Ave. The center area will be reserved for all vehicle parking. Only unsafe water conditions in the Bay that day will cancel this event. There is no guaranteed number of attendance.

All Vendors: There is no vendor fee, however we highly encourage a donation be made towards the cause of promoting Veterans mental health awareness. This year's benefitting organization will be Give an Hour and the Campaign to Change Direction.

Please make donations payable to: VFW Post 3238
166 Old Camden Rd.
Camden, Delaware 19934

I agree to comply with the rules and regulations of this event. Submission of this application is a commitment to show, if accepted. No refunds will be made for cancellations or inclement weather. My representative(s) and I expressly release and hold harmless the Arctic Blast organizers, Bowers Beach, its members, officers, employees and volunteers from any and all liability for injury, property damage or loss which may arise in connection with my participation in the Arctic Blast event.

Signature of Applicant/Vendor _____

Event/vendor Information: Marc Garduno (302) 423-2554
post3238cdr@gmail.com

Follow us at: www.facebook.com/VFW-Post-3238-Auxiliary-Camden-DE/

SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS & FAMILIES



WINTER FINANCIAL FITNESS



FINANCIAL FITNESS: Get Fit with help on BUDGETING, SAVINGS & CREDIT!!

Attend a Workshop **\$\$** Take an Online Class **\$\$** Meet One-on-One with a Financial Coach

NEW CASTLE COUNTY	KENT COUNTY	SUSSEX COUNTY
<p>Second Saturday Divorce Workshop Jan 14, 2017 at 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM Bear Library</p> <p>Grants for Your Business Feb 4, 2017 at 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Claymont Library</p> <p>Protecting & Growing Your Wealth Potential Feb 8, 2017 at 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Appoquinimink Community Library</p> <p>21 Ways to Find Money to Invest Feb 13, 2017 at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Bear Library</p> <p>How to Sell a House in 30 Days! Mar 1, 2017 at 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Brandywine Hundred Library</p> <p>Foundations of Investing Mar 7, 2017 at 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Kirkwood Library</p>	<p>Building A Secure Financial Future Jan 18, 2017 at 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Dover Public Library</p> <p>There Must Be a Hole in My Pocket Feb 1, 2017 at 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Dover Public Library</p> <p>Strategies to Get Out of Debt Feb 15, 2017 at 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Dover Public Library</p>	<p>Retirement Bootcamp: Retirement Planning Jan 11, 2017 at 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Georgetown Library</p> <p>Becoming Debt Free Is Not a Fantasy Jan 18, 2017 at 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Selbyville Library</p> <p>There Must Be a Hole in My Pocket Feb 2, 2017 at 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Georgetown Library</p> <p>Preparing for Homeownership Feb 23, 2017 at 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Lewes Public Library</p> <p>Couples and Money Apr 5, 2017 at 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Rehoboth Beach Library</p>

View full class listing of over 100 classes and Register for all workshops at → <http://www.dfli.org/>
Pre-Registration requested, but Walk-ins OK.

To schedule an appointment for a private session to

Meet One-on-One with a Financial Coach, OR take an online class – contact:

Ms. Christine Kubik, DE NG Community Relations (Delaware Joining Forces)

O 302.326.7582 | Christine.F.Kubik.nfg@mail.mil



A Delaware Joining Forces collaborative partnership provided by



DISCLAIMER: The Delaware National Guard does not endorse individual companies or agencies. The information provided herein is distributed to our soldiers and airmen in the event they may wish to take advantage of the stated offer or event. This message is not an endorsement for the company/organization or its affiliates named within the content of the message.

2017 **DJF COMMUNITY NETWORK** QUARTERLY MEETINGS

THURSDAYS

All DJF Community Network Meetings are 8:30am-10:00am

SOUTH
EASTER SEALS - GEORGETOWN Tunnell Center, Large Conf. Rm Lower Level 22317 DuPont Blvd Georgetown, DE 19947
JAN 19
APR 20
JUL 20
OCT 19



NORTH
DELAWARE NATIONAL GUARD Biden National Guard/Reserve Center 250 Airport Road, New Castle, DE 19720 **Must have PHOTO ID**
FEB 16
MAY 18
AUG 17
NOV 16

Are you registered in the DJF Network Directory?



SERVICE PROVIDERS REGISTER AT → <http://www.delaware.gov/DJF>

POINTS OF CONTACT

CHRISTINE F. KUBIK DELAWARE NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY OUTREACH & COMMUNITY RELATIONS O 302.326.7582 E christine.f.kubik.nfg@mail.mil	LARENCE KIRBY DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR O (302) 739-2293 E Larence.Kirby@state.de.us
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No single organization can meet all the needs of our Service Members, Veterans and their Families (SMVF), but a community of partners can provide an array of essential services.

VETERANS TBI SUPPORT GROUP

The Veterans TBI Support Group meets every fourth Wednesday, 12:00 PM, at the American Legion Post #8, 673 North Bedford St., Georgetown, DE 19947. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Veterans TBI Support Group, please contact Robert Corsa at (302) 933-0119 or kco326@aol.com.



Military OneSource is a confidential Department of Defense-funded program providing comprehensive information on every aspect of military life at no cost to active duty, Guard and Reserve Component members, and their families. Information includes, but is not limited to, deployment, reunion, relationship, grief, spouse employment and education, parenting and childhood, and much more.

Military OneSource has policy and programmatic information, helpful resources, products, articles and tips on numerous topics related to military life. Confidential services are available 24 hours a day by telephone and online. In addition to the website support, Military OneSource offers confidential call center and online support for consultations on a number of issues such as spouse education and career opportunities, issues specific to families with a member with special needs, health coaching, financial support, and resources. Military OneSource also offers confidential non-medical counseling services online, via telephone, or face to face. Eligible individuals may receive confidential non-medical counseling addressing issues requiring short-term attention, including everyday stressors, deployment and reintegration concerns, parenting, grief and loss, and marital problems as well as assistance with financial management, taxes, career services, health and wellness, and much more. This personalized support is available 24/7 no matter where you live or serve.



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: Mr. Charles Murrell Jr.
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, Jan 6:**

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

Friday, Jan 13:

Walter L Fox/Post #2-Dover
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 674-3922

Friday, Feb 3:

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

Thursday, Feb 10

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

Friday, March 3:

Seaford, DE/ Post #6
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 629-9915

Friday, March 10:

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

Friday, March 17:

Walter L. Fox/ Post #2—Dover
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 674-3922

**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. – Eulita Smith
(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 **
*Homes for Disabled Warriors * “Give a Vet a Smile”*
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
Cornelius “Bill” Carroll..... MOPH
Dr. Daniel Coons.....KWVA
Paul Lardizzone DAV
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
James M. Jackson..... (302) 834-1719

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 _____

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STATE OF DELAWARE

“Veterans First in the First State”



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