



# Newsletter 2015



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[www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov](http://www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov)

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

What is a military veteran? Throughout my travels, I frequently hear that question regarding those who served. Is it someone who wore our military uniform or is it someone who served continuously on active duty for over 179 days? While different organizations provide multiple definitions, here's my belief on who's a veteran. A veteran is someone who "willingly" swore to defend our country and who did so without regret or complaint. A veteran did not make an excuse to avoid a deployment, no, they stood up and went where our nation asked them to go. A veteran is someone who would willingly give their life for our country and would do it without a second thought. A veteran is someone who proudly recalls their time in service acknowledging how they grew as a result of time well spent. They speak of life-long friendships, lessons learned, and unit accomplishments that helped promote camaraderie. These veterans do not complain about what our nation owes them, they discuss what they were willing to give. My father, who passed away in October, proudly served "in country" during the Korean War. He used to tell me about how he served his country after being drafted and how the military taught him discipline. My father was very honored to serve our country and I grew up seeing our nation's colors on display in front of our house as a result of his patriotism. I followed in his footsteps, by wearing a military uniform, by being proud to serve, willing to give my life, and going where the military asked me to go...Thanks Pop!

## 2015 VETERANS DAY SERVICES

The AFSA, and the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs will host a Veterans Day Ceremony on Wednesday, November 11, 2015. The program will be held at the Memorial Bridge Plaza, Delaware Memorial Bridge, New Castle, Delaware, beginning at 10:30 AM.

The ceremony will include concert music, presentation, posting and retirement of the colors, honor volley, Armistice Day Remembrance and a fly over by the Delaware National Guard.

For further information, please call (302) 739-2792.



## VETERANS APPLE PIE SOCIAL ANNUAL EVENT

White Clay Creek State Park has hosted the Veterans Day Storytelling program at the lovely Judge Morris Estate on Polly Drummond Hill Road for over a decade. Veteran groups and individuals have shared memorabilia and stories of the war and home-front efforts with interested visitors each year at an event the Sunday before Veterans Day.

Perkins Restaurant donates their delicious pies and we serve tea or coffee on the patio or inside the estate.



White Clay Creek State Park continues to sponsor this FREE program to honor all our local veterans and all supporting individuals from all the conflicts in recent history.

The Veterans Day Apple Pie Social is an enjoyable event that all are encouraged to attend. Please consider being a volunteer to share your stories or to display your wartime memorabilia or join us as our honored guest.

Please invite your families, friends and neighbors this year: Sunday November 8, 1:00 -3:00pm at the Judge Morris Estate on Polly Drummond Hill Road

Call the Park Office to register to attend 302-368-2600. Or see below to volunteer.



## REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

Request for Volunteers – Event to honor veterans Sunday November 8, 2015 1:00-3:00pm

White Clay Creek State Park in Newark, Delaware is hosting a Veteran’s Day Open House at the beautiful Judge Morris Estate on Sunday November 9 from 1-3pm and is seeking the help of volunteers.

Were you in combat, working for the war effort, or managing a home or family during any war or conflict era? Would you share your story or memorabilia with others and be a part of this special event?

If so, please contact Kathleen Sullivan, [Kathleen.Sullivan@state.de.us](mailto:Kathleen.Sullivan@state.de.us) or call (302) 368-6560 to set up a volunteer interview.

Volunteers will be able to share stories and display memorabilia during this open house-style event. Due to space limitations not everyone interviewed will be able to participate this year.

**2015 VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT**

The Delaware Suicide Prevention Coalition was pleased to present the 5th Annual Veterans Mental



Health Summit. The Summit included the Theater of War Performance, a national project that presented a dramatic reading of Sophocles' Ajax—an ancient Greek tragedy about the suicide of a great, respected warrior—to diverse military and civilian audiences in order to engage communities in discussions about suicide, combat stress, alcohol and substance abuse, and the impact of military service on families and communities. The Play was followed by a panel of military and community members who have been affected by these issues.

The keynote address was given by Carol Graham, a military mother who lost two sons— one to suicide and one in combat—she has devoted her life to fighting the military's high suicide rates and mental health stigma. She and her husband, Major General Mark Graham, US Army (Ret.) are outspoken advocates for both civilians and soldiers who suffer from Depression, PTSD, and Traumatic Brain Injury. Her



presentation was entitled, "A Legacy of Hope: A Mother's Story."

*The event was planned and executed by the DE Suicide Prevention Coalition Military Subcommittee, which includes Mental Health Assoc., the DE Nat'l Guard, ContactLifeline, Meadow Wood Behavioral Health System and the Rockford Ctr., as well as the agencies which are the main sponsors of the event—Dept. of VA and DCVA.*



**Honoring Henry J. Evans**

Mr. Evans can recall ordeals of WW II, he can still speak some Japanese and tears up when pulling from vivid memories regarding the battle for Okinawa some 70 yrs. ago. "Okinawa was no playground," Mr. Evans said, "every day you were on the front lines." 70 yrs. after Japan signed the surrender documents aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945, the war and its immediate aftermath remain indelible memories for Evans. "The emotions still hit me at times" he said.

While serving Mr. Evans made some sketches of what he experienced during the war, which later led to him being accepted to the Philadelphia school for commercial art. He was able to cut films and went on to create graphic materials for the regional Penn Fruit Co. In 1967 he opened a studio in DE. Currently, Mr. Evans is the historian for the Sussex County Tuskegee Airmen. He and his wife of 62 yrs. raised two sons and two daughters.

Also, Mr. Evans had six older brothers; Charles, Paul, Preston, Cummins, Leroy and Henry that survived the war. Two younger brothers, George and Walter, later served. Two Sisters, Beatrice and Elva worked in civilian support jobs back home.

*Pictured: Charles Murrell, VSO @ DCVA, Commander Nolan S. Lewis, Honoree WWII Vet. Henry J. Evans, Vice Command of Operations Tyrone Johnson, and Vice Commander Denis Summers.*

The Delaware Veterans' Stand Down was held at the American Legion Post 2 in Dover on Friday 25 September 2015. The event was attended by several hundred veterans and family members and was a huge success because of YOU!

Volunteers came together from most of the Service Organizations to provide a "Day to Remember and look forward to for 2016" said one homeless veteran. It was a joy planning our Seventh Annual Delaware Stand Down and with over 110 Service Organizations attending veterans have the information to continue to achieve our Stand Down mission: to assist all Delaware Veterans to achieve independence and self-sufficiency through access to information and services.

The Stand Down central line remains open all year at 302-349-4898. A highlight of this year was Governor Markell attending and providing a bill that will enable veterans preference for State Jobs. I believe Governor Markell was quite impressed as he provided a meal to our veterans and took the time to speak with our veterans. For Service Organizations: Posts, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders we thank you for a fabulous Stand Down event and lending your hours of support.

Respectfully,  
Liz Byers Jiron  
Director Delaware Veterans'  
Stand Down





## MISSION TO AID HOMELESS VETS CONTINUES

Friday, September 18, 2015 marked the 200th day of Dover Mayor Robin Christiansen's 2015 Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.

The initiative seeks to eliminate veteran homelessness by ensuring those who are homeless are able to be placed in permanent housing.



In March, the Dover Veterans Welcome Home Team established a goal of housing at least 50 homeless veterans by Dec. 31.

Of that number, the goal was to house at least 14 veterans who fit the definition of being chronically homeless. Currently, the DVWHT has found permanent housing for 36 veterans, including 21 who were chronically homeless.

Friday marked the 200th day of Dover Mayor Robin Christiansen's 2015 Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. Bill Farley, vice chairman of the Commission of Veterans Affairs said they still have a ways to go. "In some cities and states around the country when they reach their goal they declare victory and retreat," Mr. Farley said. "We, however, are not going to do that because we know that we can't do that because there are still veterans out there that need our help."

"We still have a goal to reach and want to reach that number by the end of the year and exceed it if possible. Mr. Farley hopes the program continues to expand. "The next 100-day campaign, which will end on the 28th of December, will continue to focus on our goal of housing 50 veterans," Mr. Farley said. "But our plan during the next 100 days is to expand to cover the whole county. "We'll maintain our focus on Dover, but we will also track what will do in the whole county."

The average age of the veterans is 48. Eight female and 23 male veterans have been housed. The genders of the remaining five are not known.

"We have a lot of organizations that are helping us and they haven't reported this information yet," Mr. Farley said.

He said last October all that existed was Mayor Christiansen's idea to help homeless veterans in Dover.

"When I found out about the number of homeless veterans in Dover I got mad," Mayor Christiansen said. "I got even more upset to find out that there are still homeless veterans across this country. Something needed to be done." Mayor Christiansen said their joint efforts have come to fruition, as the real joy was setting the template for everyone else in the state to follow suit.

In May, Gov. Jack Markell signed on to a challenge to end veteran homelessness and addressed the state's efforts to find homes for all homeless veterans in Delaware by the end of 2015.



"It was terrific to see the governor acknowledge in his State of the State Address that he will be taking up the same program as we are," Mayor Christiansen said.

(Arshon Howard at ahoward@newszap.com)

## DELAWARE HOSPICE SEEKS HOLIDAY CRAFTERS AND ARTISTS

The Festival of Trees returns to Hockessin on Nov. 20th – 22nd. Delaware Hospice is seeking artisans and designers to decorate miniature trees, wreaths, and marketplace items for its 2015 Festival of Trees.



Volunteer decorators are needed to help create 2' and 3' trees, wreaths, swags, garlands, and ornamental pieces for the Festival of Trees' Marketplace, where holiday items will be on sale throughout the weekend. There are no time commitments; however any amount of time you are able to give is greatly appreciated. Additional help is also welcomed with set-up, take down, and sales. Proceeds from the Festival benefit Delaware Hospice's programs and services to patients and their families. To learn more about this role and various other volunteer opportunities with Delaware Hospice's Festival of Trees, please contact Janet Luke via email at [jlake@delawarehospice.org](mailto:jlake@delawarehospice.org) or 302-746-4535. (July 27, 2015, [Jsaenni@delawarehospice.org](mailto:Jsaenni@delawarehospice.org))

Since 1982, Delaware Hospice has provided the highest quality hospice and healthcare services, and serves as a trusted community partner in end-of-life education and support. Accredited by the Joint Commission, Delaware Hospice continues to be the largest and only licensed, nonprofit, community-based hospice serving Delaware. Now also providing care in Pennsylvania; southern Chester and Delaware counties.

*For more information about Delaware Hospice's programs and services, upcoming events, or employment opportunities, call 800-838-9800 or visit our website [www.delawarehospice.org](http://www.delawarehospice.org).*



<http://www.wreathsassacrossamerica.org/>

The Delaware General Assembly will host a Wreaths Across America ceremony on Monday, Dec. 7, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. and the public is invited. State House ceremonies in all 50 states and Washington D.C., are part of a week-long celebration of America's veterans and their service to our country, with a particular focus on family during the holidays.

Volunteers conduct the WAA State House Ceremonies each year in their state capitols. "This nationwide program is about remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms," said Lori Christiansen, event coordinator. The originator of the wreath laying program was Morrill Worcester, owner of a wreath making company in Maine who in 1991 donated and delivered wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery to be placed on the graves of the fallen. The WAA program's mission of "Remember, Honor, Teach," spreads the message of the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms. A large wreath honoring all five branches of the armed forces will be placed at the base of the Delaware Continentals Statue. Additional wreaths will be laid at four locations on the grounds of Legislative Hall, at the new Gulf War Memorial, the Dover Light Infantry Memorial Wreath, the World War II Memorial and the Medal of Honor Memorial. Cont...

Dave Skocik, president of the Delaware Veterans Coalition, will provide welcoming remarks and act as the Master of Ceremonies.

“The simple act of laying these wreaths will honor their legacies and serve as a visible reminder of their sacrifices,” said State Representative Earl Jaques, Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. Delaware Senator Bruce C. Ennis, Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, agreed. "Delaware is proud to participate in the Wreaths Across America Program at its capital in Dover. The mission is to remember, honor and teach, by laying wreaths at the capitals in all 50 states, as well as at Arlington and all veterans cemeteries."



All the Stockings For Soldiers Volunteers are keeping very busy planning for this upcoming 12th year of our community effort to send personalized Holiday greetings to our brave young men and women in uniform serving their Country half-way around the world, in addition to sending some smiles and hugs.

We hope that you all, our wonderful Volunteer Elves, are also getting ready to work with us again this year. We really need your help and support.

Thanks to the great generosity of Louis Capano & Sons, the owners of the Branmar Plaza shopping center, our "Stocking Store" we hope, will be located again at the same Branmar Plaza location that we have used for the past nine years. We hope to announce and confirm in the next few months that our "Stocking Store" will be in the empty office space that housed the Patterson-Schwartz Real Estate office, to the left of Walgreens at Silverside and Marsh Roads in Wilmington, Delaware. We would also like to thank the wonderful folks at Patterson-Schwartz Real Estate Company for allowing us to use their vacant office for five years.

Our official kick-off date for dropping off donations will be the week of Monday, October 12th, 2015. As we did last year, we will ask volunteers to DROP OFF donations starting Monday, October 12th until November 25th, 2015.

Volunteer hours will start, the following week on Oct. 19th, 2015 and will continue until Dec. 4th 2015. Our doors will open from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. from Mondays through Thursdays in the evenings only.

Over the next seven weeks, we will be personalizing each stocking with the recipient's name, collecting the needed Goodies sorting all the donations, stuffing the stockings with goodies, boxing them and shipping them to troops in the remotest regions of Afghanistan and other parts of the World.

Last year, over 1000 great volunteers helped us to mail out 1,500 boxes packed with over 8,500 homemade, personalized Christmas Stockings that were filled with over 40,000 pounds of Goodies. We also made and shipped 1,200 polar fleece blankets and 500 knitted hats for our troops.



Please visit our website for lots of information to include the list of items needed & many volunteer opportunities:

[www.StockingsForSoldiers.org](http://www.StockingsForSoldiers.org)

Judy Travis—Project Founder & Coordinator  
 Stockings for Soldiers – Delaware, Inc.  
 1911 Foulk Road  
 Wilmington, DE 19810

Please join us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/StockingsForSoldiersDelaware>



### 3RD ANNUAL DELAWARE GOLD STAR GALA



Purple Heart recipient, SFC Michael Schlitz (Ret.) was the keynote speaker at the 3rd Annual Delaware Gold Star Gala, which was hosted by, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 83's Gold Star Program.

The annual gala is an evening where Gold Star Families, who reside in Delaware are honored. The lives of their loved one, who gave the "last full measure," are remembered and their lives celebrated.

Gold Star Representative Judy C. Campbell encouraged the audience to 'ask veteran organizations to continue to honor and remember our veterans, our POW/MIA's, but to ALSO have reserved parking/seating for Gold Star Families at events and ask they briefly stand to be recognized. It only takes a few minutes to say, "if we have any Gold Star Families present, please stand so you may be recognized." This goes a very long way for the Gold Star Families. They live with the unimaginable loss of their loved one daily, we must never forget. If we fail to honor the men and women who are Gold Star Families; families who have given to our nation, that supreme sacrifice, then we fail at everything else!"

VVA Chap 83's Gold Star Program was also instrumental in having the moratorium lifted in Delaware on license plates, which afforded Gold Star License Plates, Vietnam Veterans License Plates, Buffalo Soldiers and Iraq veterans. Additionally, they have worked with the Governors office for 7 consecutive years to have an annual Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Families Day Proclamation (the last Sunday in Sep.), which coincides with the President's National Proclamation. Delaware is one of the few states to have this.

The Chapters Gold Star Programs continued goal is to have Delaware, The First State, be the model to other states on how we honor and remember our Gold Star Families until EVERY American is well versed in the meaning of Gold Star.

The Gold Star Gala agenda included Presentation of The Colors by First State Young Marines, patriotic music by The Delaware Military Academy Concert Choir, dinner music by the Star Dust Knights, 287th Army Band (DENG), a special video presentation by the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs who were instrumental in the Memorial Garden at DAFB where the Dignified Transfers take place. Patriot Guard Rider escorts for the families and the evening concluded with TAPS by the Dover Police & Fire Pipes and Drums.

The Gold Star Families, were easily recognized as the women were escorted with their presentation rose and the men with a boutonniere. The Gold Star Families each went home with a recently designed Joint Service Veterans Honor Guard Memorial Coin and Certificate of Award presented by The Joint Service Veterans Force Honor Guard.

A moving slide presentation was a memorable part of the evening as each of the soldiers lost were listed. A Memorial slide was also presented to honor and remember the late Maj. Beau Biden.



SFC Michael Schlitz inspired the audience with his moving remarks and was humbled to share the evening with our Delaware Gold Star Families. Pictures from the evening will be on VVA's web site. Please visit: [www.Delawarevva.com](http://www.Delawarevva.com) (submitted, Judy C. Campbell)

**2ND ANNUAL RUN,  
WHITE & BLUE  
5K RAISES  
MONEY FOR  
OWENS CAMPUS  
VETERANS'  
SCHOLARSHIP**



*Event sponsors: World Gym Millsboro, Lighthouse Catering, Tidewater Utilities, Mispillion River Brewing Co., Pizza King of Georgetown, Georgetown-Ellendale VFW, Mason-Dixon VFW Post 7234, American Legion Dagsboro Post #24, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.*

On Thursday, Sept. 10 more than 300 runners and walkers took to the roads for an evening race around Delaware Technical Community College's Owens Campus for the second annual Run, White & Blue 5K. The event raises money for the Owens Campus veterans' scholarship fund and honors the military and first responders for Patriot Day.

Despite rain falling just prior to the start of the race, the turnout was almost 100 more participants from what it was the year before. This was the first year that a 1 mile walk was offered, which was popular with families and Delaware Tech student organizations.

The evening began in the Student Services Center with a moment of silence for the victims of 9/11 and guest speaker Capt. Rodney Layfield, of the Delaware State Police, offering words of encouragement for the support of first responders and the American flag. Miss Newark Taylor DuVall, a human services major at the Owens Campus, closed out the ceremony with a stirring rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner.

Dr. Mark Brainard, president of Delaware Tech, also announced that the College would be supporting the 22 in 22 initiative to help raise money and awareness to prevent soldier suicide. The initiative was established by Stop Soldier Suicide and is being supported on all campuses of Delaware Tech.

September is suicide prevention and awareness month and the number 22 is significant in that nearly 22 soldiers take their lives each and every day as a result of feeling they have no other way to deal with their pain and suffering.

*Organizers anticipate the third annual Run, White & Blue 5K to take place on Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016. (Robert Bates)*

**DONATIONS TO THE FT. BELVOIR  
USO, FISHER HOUSE & SOLDIER  
AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER**

Three separate donations of \$5,000 each, a total of \$15,000, was given to the above organizations at



*Sherrill Murray, Exec. Dir. of the Assistance Ctr. with John Weidenhof, Dir. of the Wounded Warrior Fund*

Ft. Belvoir recently by the Korean War Veterans and Korean Service Veterans (KWVA) of Sussex County, Bill Carr Chapter 1, CID #013. Funds were made available from the Association Wounded Warrior Fund and from donations from private individuals.

After a fine lunch with some hospitalized warriors the other checks were given the USO and Fisher house representatives.



*Also, as part of the trip to the Washington area that day, the Bill Carr Chapter members enjoyed a stop at the Korean War Memorial for pictures. It was a great day for all. (Jack McGinley)*

## VETERAN OFFICE HOURS HOSTED BY CONGRESSMAN JOHN CARNEY



Congressman John Carney hosted three Veterans Office Hours sessions in July to help Delaware Veterans ac-

cess the benefits that they've earned. The Congressman brought together representatives from the Wilmington VA Medical Center, the Veterans Benefits Administration, the Commission on Veterans Affairs, department service officers, and many other supportive services, to answer Veterans' questions regarding medical issues, assistance with benefits claims, job training, and financial literacy. More than 300 Veterans attended the events, which took place in New Castle, Dover, and Millsboro.

"My goal was to cut through the red tape and bring the expert assistance Veterans need directly to them. I'm grateful to the Commission and other support groups for attending, and very glad that so many were able to attend and get much-needed answers. These Office Hours also gave me the opportunity to hear directly from Veterans on the challenges they face – so we can make sure we're addressing the bigger picture issues in DC. I'll be planning more of these events in the future. In the meantime, my office is always ready to help Veterans in need."

*Participants from the Commission of Veterans Affairs included Chairman Ron Sarg & Exec. Dir. Larence Kirby. Representatives from American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Stand By Me, Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities, Delaware Division of Social Services, Delaware Department of Labor, Sr. Medicare Patrol, and the Food Bank of Delaware.*



## 1st STATE MILITARY WOMEN WARRIORS HONORS WOMEN WWII VETS

On September 26th, the First State Military Women Warriors (FSMWW)\* and the Delaware National Guard honored Delaware's Women WWII Veterans. A total of 20 living Women WWII Veterans were tracked down and invited to a luncheon in their honor. Certificates of Appreciation thanking the women for their "selfless service to our country and the Allied Forces during WWII" were presented to all in attendance. Those unable to attend will have their certificates mailed to them.

The Women WWII Veterans in attendance were treated to lunch at the Lone Star Restaurant in New Castle and received a small gift of their choice. Women WWII Veterans in attendance included: Jane Steele of Newark, who served at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, even though she had asked to go to California. Helen Knapp of N Castle who served at the Bureau of Ships in Washington, DC. Margaret Wood of Greenville, who served in the British Army. Sisters Ellan (Sevitsky) Orkin and Dorothy (Sevitsky) Sinner of Milford, served together as Army Nurses. They landed at Normandy on D+4. In 2012, were awarded the French Legion of Honor. They're the only two American Women to ever receive this award.



*Pictured: Sherri Leslie (FSMWW Treasurer and VFW State Sr. Vice Commander), Jane Steele (Former President, WAVES National), Helen Knapp (Former Vice President, WAVES National), Pat Cerchio-Vieira (President, FSMWW) Seated; Ellan (Sevitsky) Orkin, Dorothy (Sevitsky) Sinner and Margaret Wood. Not pictured is Commissioner & LTC Angela Showell of the DE National Guard.\*First State Military Women Warriors was formerly WAVES National. In 2014, the name was changed and membership was expanded to women of all services.*

**CONTRIBUTION MADE TO MIDDLE EAST CONFLICTS MEMORIAL AT KENT COUNTY VETERANS PARK**

Dr. Ronald Sarg, chairman of the Delaware Veterans Commission, contributed \$500 to the planned Middle East Conflict Memorial to be placed in the Kent County Veterans Memorial Park in Dover. The memorial will be dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, at 2 p.m.

The presentation was made at the September Commission Meeting in Dover. Mr. Hampton is an at-large member of the Commission.



"We are nearing our goal of paying for the memorial," said Mr. Hampton.

"The memorial will honor the service of those who served in the Middle East from 1979 forward." The U.S. embassy in Iran was invaded in 1979, with 52 Americans taken hostage and held for 444 days.

Since then more than 5,000 Americans have been killed in conflicts in that part of the world. The Middle East encompasses the area from Egypt, Turkey and Cyprus in the west to Iran and the Persian Gulf in the east, and from Turkey and Iran in the north, to Yemen and Oman in the south.

Additional fundraising events to complete the memorial are planned, including a golf tournament at Dover AFB on Saturday, Oct. 10th, at Noon. For tickets call 302-632-7700/ email [bryan.s.clarke.mil@mail.mil](mailto:bryan.s.clarke.mil@mail.mil) or 302-241-3189/ [john.hamp2011@gmail.com](mailto:john.hamp2011@gmail.com) for more information.

(Dave Skocik)

**KWVA Scholarship Fund**



The Bill Carr Chapter 1 of Sussex County recently made an award of \$750 to Zackary Harris, a graduating senior, of Cape Henlopen High School. Zackary intends to use the funds at Virginia Tech to pursue a degree in engineering this Fall.

Zachary was chosen for the award through his demonstrated leadership qualities in the JROTC Program and high academic performance. Presenting the award is Past President of the Korean War and Korean Service Veterans Association Edward Johnson.



Walter Koopman was honored on September 16, 2015 at his home in Milton, DE. He is shown in the above photo with a copy of the Korean War Veterans and Korean Service Veterans leaflet that describes the Community and Veterans activities in Sussex County. A Trustee of the Georgetown Cheer Center, Walter is responsible for the set up and displays of Korean War memorabilia and his involvement in the war from 1950 to 1953. Walter is Past president of the Association and is an avid Classic Car enthusiast.

## ARMY VETS OPEN TOOL CONSIGNMENT STORE



Newark-area homeowners, small businesses, contractors, or anyone with a project that needs to get done have a new source for tools and equipment, thanks to two former soldiers.

Delaware Tool Exchange LLC, or “DTX”, has opened for business in south Newark. DTX sells reliable pre-owned hand and power tools, industrial shop equipment, materials, hardware and more at discount prices. Amid hectic preparations prior to opening, they were busy wheeling in generators, welding machines, lawn and garden equipment, toolboxes, and hundreds of hand tools of all types.

The business started at community yard sales and flea markets last year, established by U.S. Army veterans David MacIntyre and Wade Horton. They got started selling tools after both of their fathers passed away, leaving them with a sizeable beginning inventory.

“One day, we decided we’d put some tools on a table out in my driveway,” MacIntyre said. “People seemed to appreciate that we made the effort to clean and organize everything so neatly. But, really, it was just second nature to us!”

The two have been buddies since attending junior high school together. MacIntyre retired as a lieutenant colonel in 2012 following a career which included deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan. Horton served on active duty for four years, repairing electrical systems on missiles. He later joined the Army Reserve.

“Our business concept is simple: provide quality pre-owned tools at good prices, with outstanding customer service,” Horton said.

DTX also accepts tools in good condition for resale on a consignment basis. “We take the hassles out of selling it yourself. We’ll advertise it, display it, sell it... and then send you a check,” MacIntyre said. “No haggling, no strangers coming to your garage.” DTX will donate a portion of its profits to the Yellow Ribbon Fund, to assist returning disabled veterans.

“It’s a small measure of our gratitude for those who have sacrificed for this nation,” Horton said. “David and I wouldn’t be here doing this today if not for them.”

## DELAWARE TOOL EXCHANGE, LLC

*“Your hometown source for reliable pre-owned tools!”*

1247 Old Cooch’s Bridge Road  
Newark, DE 19713  
(302) 525-3565

[www.delawaretoolexchange.com](http://www.delawaretoolexchange.com)

Hours: Thursdays & Fridays 12 Noon to 4 pm  
Saturdays 9 am-4 pm  
Sundays 9 am-12 Noon

## GENERATIONS HOME CARE

Generations Home Care Inc. is located in Kent, New Castle and Sussex Counties. We provide home health care services such as skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, companion and housekeeping as well as certified home health aides. Medical transportation is also available to help Delawareans reach their destination. Generations Home Care also offers a visually impaired program to veterans. The program assists with visual issues such as Macular Degeneration, Glaucoma, Diabetic Retinopathy, Inoperative Cataracts or any other disease process that results in low vision. We currently are under contract with the VA and work closely with the Delaware Veterans Home. On Friday, September 25th, Generations Home Care will be attending the 2015 Delaware Veterans Stand Down at the American Legion Post in Dover Delaware.



Wilmington VA Medical Center

### Veterans & Families Resource Fair

Monday, November 16, 2015 @ 9am-noon

For more information, please contact  
(302) 994-2511 Ext. 4727 or 4589

## KENT COUNTY CHAPTER 850 VVA CONTRIBUTES TO VETERANS TRUST FUND

At its September meeting, Kent County Chapter 850, Vietnam Veterans of America, presented a \$2,004 check to Dave Skocik, president of the Friends of Delaware Veterans, for the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund. The money is the proceeds from a joint project with VVA Chapter 648 in Easton, Maryland, who partnered in an auction fundraiser in June at Schrader's Bridgetown Manor, in Henderson, Maryland.

The chapters collaborated to benefit their fellow veterans in an auction conducted by Ben Twilley of Green Gavel Auctions, who provided his services at no charge. Items included guns, boats, and outdoor related equipment donated and consigned from area businesses and individuals. The proceeds were split between the chapters with each donating to its veteran-related cause.

"This is another example of the good Chapter 850 does in the community, especially for fellow veterans," said Mr. Skocik, who is also a life member of the chapter.

*Kent County Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 850 President Joe Startt presents a check for \$2,004 to Dave Skocik, president of the Friends of Delaware Veterans for the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund.*



The Friends of Delaware Veterans is a 501c3 entity formed to provide fundraising for the Veterans Trust Fund. It is made up of community leaders from across the state who volunteer their time and resources. The Friends operates under the auspices of the Commission of Veterans Affairs. "One hundred percent of tax-deductible contributions are returned to honorably-discharged Delaware veterans in proven financial emergency," said Mr. Skocik.

*Visit [www.DelawareVeteransTrustFund.com](http://www.DelawareVeteransTrustFund.com) for more information. (Dave Skocik)*

## AMERICAN LEGION AIDS VETERANS TRUST FUND



From left, Larence Kirby, executive director of the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, looks on as Dave Skocik, president of the Friends of Delaware Veterans, is presented with a \$500 check for the Veterans Trust Fund by Robert Michael, American Legion Department of Delaware, and Richard Santos, Department Adjutant. Mr. Skocik made a presentation about the Veterans Trust Fund to the 97th Annual Convention at Dover Downs on July 9. (*Delaware State News Wednesday 7/15/15*)

## Federal Resume Workshop



**October 30, 2015**

**1:30–4:30**

**Dover Job Center**

Blue Hen Corporate Center

655 South Bay Rd, Suite 6A

Dover, DE 19901

Contact [kevin.gunning@state.de.us](mailto:kevin.gunning@state.de.us).



# *Veterans Trust Fundraiser Dinners*

## *Black Tie Optional Affairs*

### *Benefits Delaware Veterans Trust Fund*

Visit [www.DelawareVeteransTrustFund.com](http://www.DelawareVeteransTrustFund.com) for more information.

*Friday November 6, 2015, from 6 to 9 p.m.*

*Modern Maturity Center, 1121 Forrest Avenue, Dover, DE*

*or*

*Saturday, November 14, 2015, from 6 to 9 p.m.*

*Clarion Belle Hotel, 1612 N. DuPont Hwy., New Castle, DE*

*Dinner tickets are \$100 and include a plated chicken or steak dinner, entertainment, and guest speaker.*

*Tickets may be ordered by mailing a check made to Friends of Delaware Veterans, 802 Silver Lake Blvd., Suite 100, Dover, DE 19904. Put Nov. 6 or 14 and dinner choice in memo area.*



Cutoff for dinner reservations is November 2. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets will be held at the Will Call table at each event. Sponsorships are available. The deadline for sponsorships is October 24. Email [Sherri.Taylor@state.de.us](mailto:Sherri.Taylor@state.de.us) or call 302-257-3117.

# JOIN US IN DOVER ON SATURDAY, NOV. 7, 2015, AS WE HONOR DELAWARE VETERANS.

**10:00 a.m.** – Delaware Veterans Parade through downtown Dover, ending at the Legislative Mall.

**12:00 Noon** – Dedication of a new monument on the grounds of Legislative Hall honoring Delawareans who served in the Wars in the Middle East and Afghanistan.



*Staff Sergeant Roger McCall is welcomed home by his daughter, Rilee, on Sept. 18, 2013, following a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan with his unit, the Delaware National Guard's 153rd Military Police Company.*

*The State of Delaware and the Downtown Dover Partnership invite you to attend these events honoring our veterans. Handicapped parking for the monument dedication is available directly across the street from Legislative Hall at the Delaware Public Archives parking lot (please enter from Legislative Avenue because MLK Blvd North will be closed for the event). Additional parking is available in the Townsend Building, Tatnall Building and Credit Union parking lots.*

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

**Dedication Ceremony** – Call the Delaware Division of Research at 302-744-4114 or email: [Legislative.council@state.de.us](mailto:Legislative.council@state.de.us)

**Veterans Parade** – Call the Downtown Dover Partnership at 302-678-2940 or e-mail: [info@downtowndoverpartnership.com](mailto:info@downtowndoverpartnership.com).





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-*

#### 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](mailto:kco326@aol.com).



Calling All Disabled Veterans, Active Military and National Guard. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing offers free fly fishing classes to disabled Veterans and active duty military including fly tying, fly casting and fishing on local outings. You can put all you learn together and catch fish on the flies you tie. Centered in Northern Delaware at the Wilmington VA Medical Center we hold classes every 2nd Monday of the month in the Community Living Center at 6:30 PM. In Northern Delaware we will began meetings using conference space provided by the Cabela's Store at the Christina Mall if demand permits. We are pleased and very grateful Cabela's has stepped forward to offer their conference space.

Project Healing Waters is a growing organization and is increasing its capacity to include more Veterans in its fly fishing programs. We expect to expand into South Jersey where more Veterans are transitioning as outpatients from the Coatesville and Philadelphia VAMC's to Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) located in the South Jersey area.

Project Healing Waters is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled Veterans, active duty personal and Guardsman through fly fishing. Fly fishing is an adaptive sport with therapeutic benefit that addresses physical injuries as well as the invisible injuries. *(Submitted by George W. Person)*

*Please call me at 804 334-0031 or stop by one of our meetings and meet our experienced Volunteers*

**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) 993-7256 Scheduled Post Visits:

OCT 02: Oak Orchard/Riverdale/Post #2  
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 945-1673

OCT 09: Walter L Fox/Post #2  
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 674-3922

NOV 06: Oak Orchard/Riverdale/Post #2  
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 945-1673

NOV 13: Walter L Fox/ Post #2  
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 674-3922

DEC 04: Oak Orchard/Riverdale/Post #28  
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 945-1673

DEC 14: Walter L Fox/ Post #2  
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 674-3922

DEC 18: Dagsboro Post/Post #24  
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 732-3120

*\*Times/dates are subject to change.*

**Disabled American Veterans (DAV)**

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 8:00-12:00 PM (*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)**

Darrell Johnson, Sr., National Service Officer  
VA Regional Office  
1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 26  
Wilmington, DE 19805 (302) 993-7252/7253

*Mr. Johnson will make home visits upon request for Vets  
who do not have transportation to the VA.*

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

Dover CBOC: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays: 1PM – 4PM

Georgetown CBOC : 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs. 1PM – 4PM

**Purple Heart NSO (MOPH)**

Cheryl Yard, National 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<sup>th</sup> Thursday 8:30-11:30 AM  
Dover DOL (302) 993-7260

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 1:30-4:00 PM  
Blue Hen VFW Post 6483 (302) 422-4412

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 with  
DELAWARE JOINING FORCES**

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

*Please visit our  
[www.delaware.gov/djf/](http://www.delaware.gov/djf/)*



**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: DE Dept. of Labor**

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

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**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 Outpatient Clinic**

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

**Georgetown VA Outpatient Clinic**

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**  
(302) 250-5868 New Castle Co: – Eulita Smith  
(302) 984-3380 x 1121 Kent Co. - Aniela Meinhaldt  
(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

**Retired Activities Office**

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

**Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office**

Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Ctr. (302) 998-5194  
3920 Kirkwood Hwy.  
Wilmington, DE 19808



- Ronald Sarg (Chairman).....MOAA
- William C. Farley (Vice Chairman).....MCL
- Charles T. Armbruster.....American Legion
- Cornelius “Bill” Carroll..... MOPH
- Robert P. Corsa..... VVA
- Paul Lardizzone ..... DAV
- John Hampton..... At Large
- William “Bill” McMullen.....AFSA
- Mark Newman..... VFW
- Barry Newstadt.....JWV
- Earl E. Seppala.....MOWW
- Angela F. Showell..... At Large
- MyRon W. Smith.....DELVETS
- Albert W. Weir.....AMVETS

**VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS POC:**

**Air Force Sergeants Association**

Bill McMullen.....(302) 697-9750

**American Legion**

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

**AMVETS**

Albert Weir..... (302) 629-4141

**Colonial Paralyzed Veterans of America**

Ron Hoskins..... (302) 861-6671

**Delaware Veterans Coalition**

Dave Skocik..... (302) 736-8500

E-mail: [delawareveteranscoalition@gmail.com](mailto:delawareveteranscoalition@gmail.com)

**Disabled American Veterans**

Paul Lardizzone..... (302) 697-9061

**Fleet Reserve Association**

James M. Jackson..... (302) 834-1719

**Gold Star Mothers – Delaware Chapter**

Judith Faunce..... (302) 475-8272

**40 & 8**

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

**Jewish War Veterans**

Len Markovitz..... (302) 234-4785

**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**

Cornelius “Bill” Carroll..... (302) 655-3820

**Military Order of the World Wars**

Earl Seppala..... (302) 239-0641

E-mail: [eseppala@aol.com](mailto:eseppala@aol.com)

**Nat’l Association of Black Veteran**

Nolan S. Lewis..... (302) 345-6911

**The Reserve Officers Association**

LTC Richard Chappell (Ret)..... (302) 234-1418

E-mail: [rwc49ps54ud@comcast.net](mailto: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”**

