



**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

NEWS



www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov
802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE 19904
(302) 739-2792
(800) 344-9900
Fax (302) 739-2794

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Jeffrey W. Bullock, Secretary of State
Larence Kirby, Executive Director
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MyRon W. Smith
Albert W. Weir

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Many thanks for welcoming me to the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs (DCVA). Your warm reception has eased my transition into my learning phase. These are exciting times as the Commission is focused on assisting veterans through a multitude of actions. We are specifically focused on addressing homeless, jobless, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and lack of educational information. Our Commissioners are enthusiastically engaged in programs and events that are focused on these issues, are working hard to help resolve these issues. The Commission also seeks to bolster the Delaware Joining Forces (DJF) initiative by increasing website awareness and organization participation. The goal is to make DJF an interactive connection between our veterans and various service partners so that veterans have a viable assistance resource. Communication is important and we must ensure our veterans are aware of the above mentioned items so they can reap their earned benefits and entitlements. We are increasing our electronic communication (Facebook, DCVA homepage, DJF) and outreach visits (town halls and service organization visits) to update and inform veterans and their families. Communication also entails listening, so please contact me (or other DCVA members) with your concerns and if you have an idea you feel can improve your Commission. We have lofty goals, so with your support we can reach them while caring for our veterans.

DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE



If you're a veteran in Delaware, you have a myriad of choices for a specialty license plate to recognize your military affiliation, a campaign in which you served, or even a distinctive military decoration you were awarded. However; the Commission of Veterans Affairs worked with the Department of Motor Vehicle to design a specialty plate for the public to show their appreciation and support of the men and women of the Armed Forces and those who have served. House Bill 324 provided for a special motor vehicle license plate for the purpose of honoring Delaware's veterans. Now; not only veterans, but any Delaware resident wishing to honor veterans can purchase a specialty plate for their private passenger vehicle, or truck with a 3/4-ton or less manufacturer's rated capacity. The plate reads "I Support Veterans". There is a one-time administration fee of \$20.00 with half shared as a donation to the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund. By purchasing this specialty license plate, you show your support for veterans and do so with a contribution to the Veterans Trust Fund. *(News.Delaware.gov, November 1, 2014)*

VETERANS APPLE PIE SOCIAL AT WHITE CLAY CREEK STATE PARK

White Clay Creek State Park honored veterans at the lovely Judge Morris Estate on Polly Drummond Hill Road again this year with their Veterans Apple Pie Social.

Veteran groups and individuals share their memorabilia and stories with interested visitors each year at this free public event the Sunday before Veterans Day.

Perkins Family Restaurant donates their famous pies that are served with tea or coffee on the patio or inside the estate.



Again this year we were honored to have Korean War veteran George Taylor open and close the program playing the Taps on bugle.

WWII veteran Warner Schlaupitz, addressed the audience of 30 with his recollections of his army infantry service and important statistics of the war.

George Taylor recounted some of his army experiences and tradition of playing bugle at veteran memorial services for over 60 years. Everyone celebrated George Taylor's birthday by singing for him as he blew out his candle atop a decorated cupcake.



They then joined the other veteran volunteers at tables throughout the estate for the social.

Bill Kitchen, a WWII veteran and longtime participant, offered a wonderful display with great information about his experiences in the Navy in the Pacific Theater.

Korean War veteran, Al Lawler, set up a large display of weapons and soldier's uniform and essentials.

Veteran George Pearson from the Healing Waters Fly Fishing Project demonstrated fly tying and fly casting.

Joe LaRosch brought his 1944 WWII Jeep which he has lovingly restored, and invites WWII veterans to add their autographs on this mobile memorial.

Park volunteers and veterans James Kniskern helped with the event and Richard Albertson took photos again this year.

Donna Johnson read her poems to honor veterans in her family and to all veterans.

The Veterans Day Apple Pie Social is a special annual event that all are encouraged to attend: either as a volunteer to share your stories or to 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 next year's program—Sunday November 8, 2015-- please contact Kathleen Sullivan at the White Clay Creek State Park 302-368-6560 kathleen.sullivan@state.de.us

Sunday November 9, 2014

LAUREL VETERANS DAY PARADE



Veteran's groups from throughout Delaware and Delmarva turned out in force for the 2nd Annual Eastern Shore Veteran's Day Parade held in Laurel, DE on Saturday, November 8, 2014. Over 70 units of veterans groups, bands, youth groups, military equipment, floats, equestrian units, civic clubs and local dignitaries participated. The Grand Marshal for the parade was Richard Stone, two-time mayor of Laurel and World War II veteran. The bands and

entries were judged by the National Judges Association and cash prizes and trophies were awarded to groups in all categories. Parade Committee members believe that the spirit of patriotism that our country was founded on remains, but the small town parades we all remember growing up have disappeared and it's time to bring out the bands and flags again!



This now annual parade will continue to thank and honor the men and women who put their lives on the line over the course of our country's history and who continue to serve to secure our freedom....our veterans. Next year's parade will be held on Saturday, November, 7, 2015, in Laurel. Anyone wishing to participate or in search of more information, may call Laurel American Legion Post 19, and ask for Post Commander Donald Gootee @ 302-875-5488.

VVA PRESENTS CHECK TO VETERANS HOME



The State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America presented a check to the Delaware Veterans

Home in Milford on November 3. The proceeds were from the annual car show on October 19, put on by Kent County VVA Chapter 850 and coordinated by Dennis Mehrenberg. The \$3,000 check will be used for patient services. L to R: Paul Davis, president, State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America; and VVA members Bob Rinker and Denny Mehrenberg of Milford. Representing the Veterans Home are Administrator Bill Peterson and staff members Guy Crawford of Camden, Cindy Schaap of Milford, and Nancy Galvin of Dover. *(submitted by David Skocik, November 09, 21014)*



WHEELCHAIR DONATION

The Georgetown Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, in conjunction with the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, is proud to report the following:



Mr. Mawson donating wheelchair to Commissioner Corsa

Chapter President Robert “Bob” Corsa, who also serves as the DCVA Commissioner for Sussex County, personally delivered a donated electric wheelchair to WWII Veteran Edward Freund of Lewes, DE. Commissioner Corsa was contacted by Mr. Freund’s daughter Joanne Richardson, who stated her father needed a wheelchair. On November 10, 2014 (the 239th birthday of the US Marine Corps), Commissioner Corsa, a USMC



Mr. Freund & Commissioner Corsa
<http://samaritanspurse.org/occ> (November 11, 2014)

Combat Vietnam Veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart Decoration, made the delivery to Mr. Freund’s home. The wheelchair was donated by Kenneth Mawson, Volunteer for “Church and Community Relations,” South Eastern PA, <http://samaritanspurse.org/occ>

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.

VETERANS UNITED OUTREACH OF DELAWARE



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)

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs



(New Castle County)

Ms. Natasha Scott-Knight – Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, DE may be reached Monday – Thursday, (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM) at (302) 365-8231. Please call for appointment.

(Kent County)

Mr. Charles Murrell - Dover may be reached Monday–Friday (8:30 AM-4:30 PM) at (302) 257-3119 or (800) 344-9900 (in State). Please call for an appointment.

(Sussex County)

Ms. Laurie Corsa may be reached: Monday - Thursdays - Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Millsboro, DE (8:30 AM - 4:00 PM) at (302) 648-3068. Please call for an appointment.

Fridays - Georgetown Vet Center (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM) at (302) 994-2511 Ext 2361

American Legion



Joseph T. Houghton, Dept. Service Officer, (302) 993-7256, will visit the following posts on the following dates:

- JAN 16 Walter L Fox, 302-674-3922
Post #2 (10:00-1:00)
- FEB 06 Oak Orchard/Riverdale, 302-945-1673
Post #28 (10:00-1:00)
- FEB 13 Walter L Fox, 302-674-3922
Post #2 (10:00-1:00)
- MAR 06 Oak Orchard/Riverdale, 302-945-1673
Post #28 (10:00-1:00)
- MAR 13 Walter L Fox, 302-674-3922
Post #2 (10:00-1:00)
- MAR 20 Dagsboro Post 302-732-3120
Post #24 (10:00-1:00)

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
Thursday 8:00-12:00 PM (Walk-ins) 302-856-5230
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 or (302) 993-7253. Mr. Johnson will make home visits upon request for Vets who do not have transportation to the VA. He will be at 2114 S DuPont Hwy, Suite 2, Dover DE every Thursday from 8 – 12. He will be at the Dover CBOC on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays from 1 – 4 and the Georgetown CBOC the 2nd & 4th Thursdays from 1 – 4.

Purple Heart NSO (MOPH)



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

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)



David Hilliard, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 21, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 993-7260.

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

NOTE: All persons interested in Outreach Services should first call our office so that some advance information may be obtained to accelerate the application process. Kent & Sussex County residents may call 1-302-993-7260. NOTE: persons desiring assistance at the Thursday-downstate locations should be at the Delaware DOL no later than 9:00 AM or at the afternoon locations by 2:00 PM. The VFW provides services to veterans and their dependents without respect to veteran service organization affiliation; membership in the VFW is NOT required for service.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)



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

DELAWARE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

New Castle Co. Section (Bear, DE).....302-834-8046
Sussex Co. Section (Millsboro, DE).....302-934-5653

DELAWARE VETERANS HOME

100 Delaware Veterans Blvd.....302-424-6000
Milford, DE 19963

DVH PTSD Residential Support Group Sessions
January 27 10:00 AM
February 25 & March 25 13:00 PM

HOME OF THE BRAVE

Main Office - 302-424-1681
Denise Dudley - Intake Coordinator - 302-424-0358

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 Rehabilitation: 302-761-8275

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA Regional Office (Claims & Benefits)

1601 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, DE 19805.....800-827-1000

VA Medical Center (Healthcare)

1601 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, DE 19805.....800-461-8262
.....302-994-2511

Dover VA Outpatient Clinic

1198 S. Governors Ave
Dover, DE 19904.....800-461-8262 x2400

Georgetown VA Outpatient Clinic

20653 DuPont Hwy
Georgetown, DE 19947800-461-8262 x2300

Readjustment Counseling

Vet Center (New Castle Co.).....800-461-8262 x5434
Vet Center (Kent Co.).....800-461-8262 x2430
Vet Center (Sussex Co.).....302-225-9110

The Vet Center provides counseling services for:

- Post Traumatic Stress and Other Disorders

- Military Sexual Trauma
- Marital/Family problems
- Bereavement

Vet Center services are provided at no cost to eligible veterans who served in combat areas and their families or to those who experienced sexual trauma or bereavement challenges without combat area restriction.

Veterans Outreach Program

Mike Rowe - Listening Post—Lower Delaware
302-422-8033x173

RETIREE ACTIVITIES

Retired Activities Office

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

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office

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

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

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

Korean War Veterans Association

George Goss..... (302) 424-0461

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

The Reserve Officers Association

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

E-mail: rw49ps54ud@comcast.net

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Paul Phillips Jr.....(302) 656-5022

Vietnam Veterans of America

Paul Davis.....(302) 697-8384



Ronald Sarg (Chairman).....	MOAA
William C. Farley (Vice Chairman).....	MCL
Charles T. Armbruster.....	American Legion
Cornelius “Bill” Carroll.....	MOPH
Robert P. Corsa.....	VVA
George T. Goss.....	KWVA
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

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 _____ Date _____

Title



Newsletter

Jan - Mar

DCVA FORM 20-01-02-13-10-01



FIRST STATE MILITARY ACADEMY

The First Marine JROTC and New Tech High School in the US

Please join First State Military Academy
for an Open House to learn about our unique
educational opportunities:

Saturday, January 24th

9:00am-1:00pm

FSMA Campus

355 W. Duck Creek Road

Clayton, DE 19938

Our Mission...

*is to provide an educational
experience that focuses on
developing the intellectual,
physical and
emotional
growth of our
Cadets.*



First State Military Academy will provide:

- Marine JROTC program
- Tuition-Free Charter High School
- Free Transportation
- Project Based Learning
- 1:1 Computing
- Nationally recognized New Tech Network academic program
- Sports

Upcoming Open House Events

Thursday, January 29, 6-8pm

Saturday, February 21, 9am-1pm

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

Call for more information: 1-302-734-4486



DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

P R E S E N T S

2015 NATIONAL COMMANDER'S BANQUET

FRIDAY - MARCH 6, 2015

AT WALTER L. FOX POST #2

H O N O R A R I N G



Cash Bar at 5:45 PM
Followed by Dinner &
Program
\$30 per Person
Tables of 8



Cutoff Date -
Feb. 28, 2015
Entrée Choices:
Stuffed Flounder or
Queen-Cut Prime Rib
Coat & Tie

National Commander
Michael (Mike) D. Helm
Department of Nebraska

Checks Payable and Sent To: The American Legion
Department of Delaware
PO Box 930, Seaford, DE 19973
Tel: 302-628-5221
Email: adjutant@delegion.org



Dover Mayor's Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness Summit

**January 22, 2015, 9:00 A. M. to 3:00 P.M.
Delaware Technical Community College--Terry Campus
100 Campus Drive (Corporate Training Center)
Building 400, Conference Room 400 A/B
Dover, DE 19901**

Dear Friend of Dover:

You are cordially invited to attend The Dover Mayor's Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness Summit and to join the collaborative effort led by the Mayor's Citizen Working Group in partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Delaware Homeless Planning Council and the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs.

Come learn how to effectively decrease veteran homelessness in Dover and hear what other communities are doing to end homelessness among veterans by 2015.

The day will feature presentations, discussions and brainstorming sessions on:

- How to build coalitions and organize our efforts to reach maximum results
- Available resources and technical assistance
- Housing placement options and promising practices

An invitation will be distributed soon with more information on the day's agenda, speakers and activities. In the meantime, please hold the date and make plans to attend. If you have not already made the commitment to join public officials and private citizens in ending veterans homelessness in 2015, this meeting is a great opportunity to learn more about the effort.

For more information, please contact Bill Farley at (302) 242-7926 or via email at wcfarley@verizon.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin R. Christiansen".

**Robin R. Christiansen
Mayor of Dover**

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

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

STATE OF DELAWARE
“Veterans First in the First State”

