



DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

I feel honored that my peers on the Commission elected me once again to serve as their Chairman. Congratulations to Ronald G. Sarg as he was elected as Vice Chairman. Ron has been very active representing our interests. I look forward to working with him. I want to thank George T. Goss for his outstanding service as Vice Chairman this past year. It is with a sad note that I share with you that Mrs. Pauline Anderson of The Gold Star Mothers passed away on September 11, 2013. She was a veteran advocate for many years and attended all the Veterans and Memorial Day Services at the Delaware Memorial Bridge. The Veterans Trust Fund (HB 85 & 140) was signed by the Governor on September 17, 2013, at the Commission office. To perpetuate the Trust, it will require donations and I would like to thank the veterans' service organizations that donated after the signing of the bills. Please encourage your organization to think of the Delaware Veterans Trust with your benevolent contributions. One hundred percent of the proceeds are used in state to provide direct assistance to our veterans. A memorial to Delawareans who served in World War II will be dedicated November 9, 2013, 12:00 noon at Legislative Hall in Dover. Please join us for the dedication. We will be presenting Korean War Certificates and 60th Anniversary coins to our veterans in the Veterans Home on November 14, 2013, 10:00 am. I also want to thank the many Delawareans for their continuous support of Delaware's service members, veterans, and families.



2013 VETERANS DAY SERVICES



The American Legion and the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs will host a Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday, November 11, 2013. The program will be held at the Memorial Bridge Plaza, Delaware Memorial Bridge, New Castle, Delaware, beginning at 10:30 AM. For further information, please call (800) 344-9900 (in state only) or (302) 739-2792.

VETERANS DAY PARADE - LAUREL, DELAWARE

The American Legion Post 19 and the Town of Laurel, Delaware are thrilled to announce that they are honoring our Veterans with a Parade on Saturday, November 9th in downtown Laurel. The parade will step off at 11 am and promises to be a great day. The theme is 11th Month, 11th Day, 11th Hour. We are looking for participants for the parade. We would like any Veteran that would like to be in the parade to be able to. We are also hoping to have a Massing of the Colors as the last entry in the parade and we are looking for a representative from various groups to participant in that entry. For more information contact Christie Shirey, Parade Co-Chair at sussexvetday@gmail.com.

VETERANS APPLE PIE SOCIAL

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 stories of the war and home front efforts with interested visitors each year at an event the Sunday closest to Veterans Day.

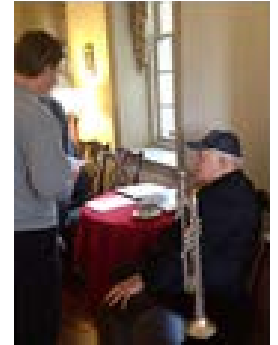
Perkins Restaurant has donated delicious pies that are served with tea or coffee on the patio or inside the estate.



WWII vets Bill Kitchen, Watson Day, Warner Schlaupitz to name a few have offered their time and

effort to make this annual program a success for many years. White Clay Creek SP continues to sponsor this program to honor all our local veterans and all supporting individuals from all the conflicts in recent history.

Last year Korean War Vet, George Taylor, brought his trumpet and played the Star Spangled Banner and Taps as he has for countless veteran funeral services over the years.



The Veterans Day Apple Pie Social is a very enjoyable and special event that all are

encouraged to attend: either as a volunteer to share your stories or to display your wartime memorabilia.



Please invite your families, friends and neighbors this year: Sunday, November 10 1:00-3:00pm at the

Judge Morris Estate on Polly Drummond Hill Road. Call the Park Office to register to attend 302-368-6900 or see below to volunteer.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS – VETERAN'S DAY EVENT



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

10 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 like to share your story or memorabilia with others and be a part of this timeless event? If so, contact Kathleen Sullivan, Kathleen.Sullivan@state.de.us or call (302) 368-6560 to setup 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 participate this year.

**DELAWARE VETERANS SERVICES ONLINE
DIRECTORY WINS NATIONAL AWARD**

The new [Delaware Veterans Services Directory \(VSD\)](#) has won recognition from a national eGovernment research institute for its innovative approach to providing services to an important segment of Delaware’s population. The directory, which serves the more than 79,000 Delaware veterans and their families, was named a winner of a 2013 Digital Government Achievement Award in the Government-to-Business category by the Center for Digital Government.

Accessible at www.delaware.gov/vsd, the VSD is a state-wide online listing of public and private organizations offering services to Delaware veterans and their families. It brings together a community of partners in a single, online portal that features links to employment services, housing services, medical services, and education services, among others. The VSD currently includes 48 organizations, with information ranging from general knowledge and social media links to informational videos.

“Veterans have served to protect us and we are obligated to do everything in our power to ensure they get the benefits and assistance they deserve,” said Delaware Governor Jack Markell. “The VSD is an innovative way to connect those in need of housing, healthcare, jobs and many other benefits with those organizations that have a passion to serve veterans. I want to personally encourage organizations to continue registering for free today and help us get the word out about the Veterans Services Directory.”

VSD users can search by geographic location and by types of services offered. The directory also offers quick links to important state and federal veterans’ agencies. It provides an array of essential services for Delaware’s vast military community and simplifies the process of obtaining needed services for military veterans and their families.

“Military members, veterans and their families are entitled to numerous benefits. There are equally as many organizations working hard day in and day out to help those who committed to protect our way of life,” said Paul Lardizzone, Veterans Affairs Commission Chairman. “Our hope is that the Veterans Services Directory helps address a

longstanding problem of connecting veterans in need to the organizations that can provide assistance.”

The VSD website was developed by the Delaware Government Information Center for the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs as part of Governor Markell’s push for a more efficient and effective government. The Government Information Center (GIC) helps meet this goal by developing applications and websites that are innovative, cost-effective, and easy to use. To contact the GIC, send an email to: gic@delaware.gov. Contact: Tammy Stock at 302-857-3038 or tamara.stock@state.de.us (*News.delaware.gov, September 13, 2013*)

**“HONORING OUR HEROES” AT THE KOREAN
WAR MEMORIAL**

Korean War Veterans Association, Delaware – July 27, 2013 marked the 60th anniversary of the Armistice that brought an end to the Korean War. The Department of Defense sponsored a commemoration for “Honoring Our Heroes” at the Korean War Memorial, Washington, D.C.

A contingent of veterans left the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs at 5:00 a.m. to attend the commemoration. Serving in the Korean War are: Gene Rose, Sgt., U.S. Army 14th Infantry Regiment, 25th Division; Frank Davidson, SP3, U.S. Army 43rd Engineer Battaion; Alfred Lawlor, PFC, U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division, 7th Regiment. Also attending was the Chairman Paul Lardizzone and Executive

Director John Knotts. Both Paul and John are veterans of Korean service, however, it was after the War.

Each veteran of the Korean War was presented a medal to commemorate their service and this special event. The program included remarks by President Obama; Secretary of Defense Hagel; Secretary of Veterans Affairs Shinseki; envoy for President Park Geun-hye; and other distinguished guests of the Republic of Korea. By John Knotts, Executive Director.



**SUPREME COOTIE MARK NEWMAN
DEVOTED TO HAVING A 'LOUSY' TIME**

The name may sound a bit silly, but members of the Military Order of the Cootie have a serious mission: to bring a little joy into the lives of wounded and hospitalized veterans. Retired U.S. Air Force computer specialist Mark Newman, of Dover, was elected Supreme Commander of the MOC during a national convention held in July, 2013. The Cooties are a division of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Newman came to the post from his position as a life member of the Vinson-Chason VFW Post 3238 in Camden. There are three chapters, or "pup tents" of the MOC, each associated with a VFW chapter in Delaware. The group has about 170 members throughout the First State. (Jeff Brown, Dover Post, September 4, 2013)



**PATRICK LITTLE ELECTED AS MILITARY
ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART NATIONAL
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**

In August 2013, Patrick Little of Delaware was elected as National Senior Vice Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, a national veteran service organization with more than 44,000 members. Little joined the Military Order of the Purple Heart in 1992. A life member of Delaware Chapter 9377, Pat served the Order as a Chapter, Department and Region Commander before being elected to the National Leadership in August 2012. Pat served in the US Army from 1968 – 1970 and was wounded August 12, 1969 on LZ Becky, in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam. Little spent 22 years with the DuPont Company following his military career. He left the company in 1992 and formed a business that helped launch other enterprises with innovative technologies. He is active on the boards of several companies and charitable organizations.



**MEALS ON WHEELS IS SEEKING
VOLUNTEERS FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY**

Did you know that according to the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger, 1 in 7 senior citizens in America is threatened by hunger and that many Meals on Wheels recipients report that without our help, they would be faced with having to make a decision between purchasing life-saving medications or food?

City Fare is a nonprofit organization that works to ensure that no senior in New Castle County, Delaware goes hungry. They deliver nearly 1,000 meals every day. Our service helps seniors to remain living independently in the homes they've grown to love over the years. We rely heavily on volunteers to make this happen. Volunteers provide a nutritious lunch, a friendly smile, and a daily check-in to ensure that clients are well.

Due to a recent drop in corporate volunteers, City Fare is in dire need of additional Meals on Wheels volunteers!

The caliber of men and women who are members of veterans organizations throughout Delaware would make a quality addition to our organization. City Fare is aware that, as veterans, you possess a sense of service that is above and beyond that of most other individuals. Please consider donating sometime in the afternoons to serve our elderly neighbors—many of whom are veterans themselves! We have delivery routes from Claymont, all the way through New Castle County to Middletown and Townsend and our schedules are flexible--we have volunteers who deliver anywhere from multiple times per week, to once a month. Whatever your schedule allows is a big help, so please consider joining Meals on Wheels to combat senior hunger!

To join the team or learn more about the program, please contact: Katie Soja, Volunteer Coordinator, (302) 421-3731, KatieSoja@cityfare.org

HOME OF THE BRAVE FEMALE SHELTER

The Home of the Brave Foundation, Inc. is in contract negotiations with God's Way to Recovery to lease a property which will be used by The Home of the Brave to establish a female veteran's transitional living facility. The God's Way to Recovery property

located at 9 Causey Avenue in Milford, Delaware was used by God’s Way to Recovery as a homeless male transitional living facility. Once negotiations are completed the goal is to sign a lease in the fall of 2013 and welcome the first homeless female veteran in the winter of 2013/2014. Fundraising efforts are underway to ensure this pilot program is successfully launched.

Home of the Brave has been providing transitional housing for male veterans for twenty one years. This facility is located off Route 1, south of Milford (6632 Sharps Road, Milford). Recognizing a need for a similar facility for female veterans, Home of the Brave decided to seek funds to stand-up such a program.

God’s Way to Recovery was hopeful that another non-profit organization would lease the facility to continue to provide housing for the homeless. This property meets the needs established by Home of the Brave for a female veteran transitional living facility. Once the lease agreement is signed, Home of the Brave will begin a two year pilot program to validate the scope of housing needed to support the homeless female veteran population.

Home of the Brave Foundation, Inc. is a 501 C 3, non-profit, whose mission is to reduce homelessness among our military veteran population and to help veterans successfully transition into permanent housing and personal independence. For more information on how to support The Home of the Brave, please visit their website at www.homeofthebravefdn.org, or contact Jessica Finan, Executive Director, (302) 424-1681. (August 16, 2013)



**VA HEALTH CARE AND
THE AFFORDABLE CARE
ACT**

Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the Affordable
Care Act?**

The Affordable Care Act, also known as the health care law, was created to expand access to affordable health care coverage to all Americans, lower costs, and improve quality and care coordination. Under the health care law, people will have:

- health coverage that meets a minimum standard (called “minimum essential coverage”) by January 1, 2014;
- qualify for an exemption; or
- make a payment when filing their taxes if they have affordable options but remain uninsured.

In 2014, Health Insurance Marketplaces will be a new way to find health coverage. On the Marketplaces, some people may be eligible for lower costs on health premiums and out-of-pocket costs based on their income.

At a glance

- VA wants all Veterans to get health care that improves their health and well-being.
- If you are enrolled in VA health care, you don’t need to take additional steps to meet the health care law coverage standards.
- The health care law does not change VA health benefits or Veterans’ out-of-pocket costs.
- If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply at any time.

What happens if I do not have health coverage?

You do not have to make a payment if you have coverage that meets a minimum standard (called “minimum essential coverage”). If you have access to affordable coverage but remain uninsured starting in 2014, you may have to make payment when filing your taxes. This payment will either be a flat fee or a percentage of your taxable household income, depending on which amount is higher. This payment will be phased-in according to the schedule below:

- \$95 or 1% of your taxable income in 2014
- \$325 or 2% of your taxable income in 2015
- \$695 or 2.5% of your taxable income in 2016

Exemptions from the payment will be granted under certain circumstances. For more information on these exemptions, visit www.healthcare.gov.

If I’m enrolled in a VA health care program, do I meet the requirement for health care coverage?

Yes. If you are enrolled in any of VA’s programs below, you have coverage under the standards of the health care law:

- Veteran’s health care program
- Civilian Health and Medical program (CHAMPVA)
- Spina bifida health care program

What are the benefits of enrollment in VA health care?

Enrollment in VA health care means you have:

- Medical care rated among the best in the U.S.
- Immediate benefits of health care coverage. Veterans may apply for VA health care enrollment at any time.
- No enrollment fee, monthly premiums, or deductibles. Most Veterans have no out-of-pocket costs. Some Veterans may have to pay small copayments for health care or prescription drugs.
- More than 1,400 places available to get your care. This means your coverage can go with you if you travel or move.
- Met the new requirement to have health care coverage that meets the minimum standard.

How do I enroll for VA health care coverage?

You may apply in one of three convenient ways. To enroll, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit your local VA health care facility.

Can I continue to use VA health care with other programs, like private insurance or federal health care programs?

Yes. You can continue to use VA for all your health care needs, or complement your VA care with private health insurance or coverage by other federal health care programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, and TRICARE.

What's the Health Insurance Marketplace?

Beginning in 2014, the Marketplace is a new way to shop for and purchase private health insurance (for example, health coverage other than VA health care programs) that fits your budget and meets your needs. People who purchase insurance through the Marketplace may be able to lower the costs of health insurance coverage by paying lower monthly premiums.

I am enrolled in a VA health care program. Would I be eligible for assistance to pay health insurance premiums on the Marketplace if I choose to purchase health care outside of VA?

Since VA care meets the standard for health care coverage, you wouldn't be eligible for assistance to lower your cost of health insurance premiums if you chose to purchase additional health care coverage outside of VA. However, you may still purchase private health insurance on or off the Marketplace to complement your VA health care coverage.

How will I know if I'm eligible for assistance to purchase health insurance outside of VA?

VA can't make this determination. If you use the Marketplace, you will find out if you can get lower costs on your monthly premiums for private health insurance plans. Remember, if you are a veteran enrolled in (or are a beneficiary of) a VA health care program, you don't need to take additional steps to meet the health coverage requirements under the health care law.

Are my family members (who aren't eligible for VA or other federal health care programs) eligible for assistance to purchase health insurance?

Your family members who are not enrolled in a VA health care program may use the Marketplace to get coverage. They may get lower costs on monthly premiums or out-of-pocket costs. They could be eligible for free or low-cost coverage through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Starting October 1, they can submit an application for health care coverage through the Marketplace, and learn the amount of assistance they are eligible for. For more information, visit www.healthcare.gov.

Can I cancel my VA health care coverage?

Yes. However, acceptance for future VA health care coverage will be based on eligibility factors at the time of application, which may result in a denial of health care coverage.

Where can I get more information?

For information on VA health care and the Affordable Care Act, visit VA's website at www.va.gov/aca, or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. or Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., eastern. For information on the Marketplace, visit www.healthcare.gov.

VA PARTNERS WITH AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION AND LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION TO LAUNCH A PILOT PROGRAM TO HELP VETERANS RECEIVE DECISIONS FASTER AND REDUCE CLAIMS BACKLOG

Pro-Bono Pilot Program to Assist Veterans with Developing their Disability Claims

The Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) announced a new partnership and pilot program aimed at reducing the claims backlog

and making it easier for unrepresented Veterans to receive assistance developing their claims for disability pay.

“Ending the backlog is an ‘all hands on deck’ effort that requires teamwork, both in and out of government,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “This partnership between VA, ABA and LSC is aimed at surging resources to deliver earned benefits to Veterans more quickly.”

In the coming months, ABA and LSC attorneys will provide free assistance to a targeted group of unrepresented Veterans who request their help gathering and obtaining evidence required by law to support their disability claims.

The development of the claim is often the longest part of the process that determines whether a Veteran is entitled to VA compensation. These steps can take more than 200 days in the rating decision process. The pilot will offer pro bono attorney assistance to Veterans with claims pending at the St. Petersburg and Chicago Regional Offices who do not currently have an authorized representative.

Veterans will choose whether to accept this pro-bono assistance. Similar Veterans with claims pending at other VA regional offices may also be considered for the pilot, if warranted.

“The ABA is proud to take the lead in connecting veterans with pro bono attorneys who will help them receive the aid our nation owes them for their selfless courage,” said ABA President Laurel Bellows. “We hope that our initial focus on Chicago and St. Petersburg can swiftly be expanded across the nation.”

The claims selected for this pilot program, which are currently -- or will soon be -- part of the claims backlog, will vary in terms of complexity and degree of completeness. VA will accredit the attorneys who choose to participate, and the ABA and LSC will provide them with specialized training that will enable them to help evaluate and develop Veterans claims and make those claims ready for a rating decision. The two initial pilot sites were selected based on proximity to ABA headquarters, and the opportunity for the biggest impact on the backlog.

In the coming months, VA will identify eligible Veterans to participate in the pilot program and send letters advising them of all their options for representation to help them advance their claims -

from Veteran Service Organizations, attorneys and claims agents, to pro bono attorneys participating in this pilot.

The VA letter will inform Veterans of a 1-800 hotline and website to connect them to an attorney who is willing to assist with their claim, free of charge.

Under the partnership, the ABA and LSC will match interested Veterans and attorneys on several factors, including geographic location, complexity of the claim and the Veteran’s and attorney’s preferences on the nature and scope of representation.

VA is continuing to implement several initiatives to meet the Department’s goal to eliminate the claims backlog in 2015. As a result of these initiatives, VA’s total claims inventory has dropped to its lowest levels since March 2011.

The number of claims in the VA backlog – claims pending more than 125 days – has been reduced by 18 percent, compared to the highest point in March 2013. Veterans can learn more about disability benefits on the joint Department of Defense-VA web portal, eBenefits, at www.ebenefits.va.gov/. (VA News Release, August 9, 2013)

***INCARCERATED VETERANS MAKE DONATIONS TO LOCAL VETERANS GROUPS
Money presented to community programs during special ceremony***

The Incarcerated Veterans Group (IVG) at Sussex Correctional Institution (SCI) in Georgetown recently presented donations totaling \$4,500 to four agencies and organizations that provide services to veterans living in the local community.

Generated by fundraising events held throughout the year, the money was presented to representatives from People’s Place Veterans Outreach Program, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Ladies Auxiliary Post 2931, the Delaware Center for Homeless Veterans, and AMEN House of Oak Orchard during a special June 13 ceremony. The ceremony also included guest



speakers: Master Sergeant Georgia Powell from the 193rd Special Operations Wing – Pennsylvania Air National Guard, John Knotts, Executive Director for the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, and Christopher Klein, Deputy Chief of the Department of Correction's Bureau of Prisons.

"The compassionate and dedicated veterans in the IVG program want to offer assistance to those helping veterans in the local area," said SCI counselor James Deel, the group's supervisor. "This ceremony offers a special opportunity for IVG to connect with and show their support for those agencies and organizations."

This is the second year IVG has been able to offer financial assistance to local veteran-focused organizations. Last year's donations totaled \$2,400.

Established in 2010 and open to any inmate with a verified Department of Defense Form DD-214 record of military service, IVG has a membership that fluctuates between 40-60 inmates.

Monthly meetings are held to not only plan the group's quarterly fundraisers, but to familiarize members with federal, state and privately-funded programs available to assist them during their period of incarceration, as well as when they are released from prison.

"The idea behind IVG is to bring veterans together for comradeship and support, but it is also used as an avenue to make them aware of programs and opportunities available to them as they transition back into the community," said Deel. "With that focus, the program has been able to secure housing, stable employment and enrollment into treatment programs for many veterans being released from SCI." (*John Painter, July 10, 2013*)

DOD, VA ESTABLISH TWO MULTI- INSTITUTIONAL CONSORTIA TO RESEARCH PTSD AND TBI

In response to President Obama's Executive Order, the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) highlighted the establishment of two joint research consortia, at a combined investment of \$107 million to research the diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) over a five-year period. "VA is proud to join with its partners in the federal government and the academic community to support

the President's vision and invest in research that could lead to innovative, new treatments for TBI and PTSD," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We must do all we can to deliver the high-quality care our Service members and Veterans have earned and deserve."

The Consortium to Alleviate PTSD (CAP), a collaborative effort between the University of Texas Health Science Center – San Antonio, San Antonio Military Medical Center, and the Boston VA Medical Center will attempt to develop the most effective diagnostic, prognostic, novel treatment, and rehabilitative strategies to treat acute PTSD and prevent chronic PTSD.

The Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC), a collaborative effort between Virginia Commonwealth University, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and the Richmond VA Medical Center will examine the factors which influence the chronic effects of mTBI and common comorbidities in order to improve diagnostic and treatment options. A key point will be to further the understanding of the relationship between mTBI and neurodegenerative disease.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 2.5 million American service members have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Military service exposes service members to a variety of stressors, including risk to life, exposure to death, injury, sustained threat of injury, and the day-to-day family stress inherent in all phases of the military life cycle.

To improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health conditions, the President released an Executive Order directing the Federal agencies to develop a coordinated National Research Action Plan. The Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Department of Education (ED) came forward with a wide-reaching plan to improve scientific understanding, effective treatment, and reduce occurrences of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, co-occurring conditions and suicide. (*VA News Release, August 10, 2013*)

**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 of our 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. We work with all who are willing to help accomplish our goals. The Outreach networks with federal, state and local agencies and coordinates with all organizations in Delaware. Through it all, we are constantly changing and growing.

We are a veterans committee with a foundation in God, Country, and Freedom, to which we credit the sacrifices of our active duty military, our veterans, and their families.

VETERANS TBI SUPPORT GROUP



Each year, an estimated 1.7 million people sustain a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs (DCVA) is partnering with [The Brain Injury Association of Delaware](http://www.braininjury.org) to offer advocacy and support. One of our goals is to start a Veterans TBI Support Group in areas throughout Delaware. Currently, a Veterans TBI Support Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month in Georgetown, DE. 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.

**IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETS SEEK
REPRESENTATION IN DELAWARE**

An organization called IAVA (Iraq Afghanistan Vets of America) has a national presence and is lobbying for items like the numbers behind the VA disability benefits backlog -- over 565,000 vets waiting too long to get their claims resolved. But it’s not enough to talk about the numbers. Whether a vet is a part of those official backlog numbers or stuck in the appeals process, the wait for benefits can be a heavy burden. Many of our fellow veterans are struggling through the emotional and financial stresses of not receiving the benefits they earned. Survey data that has been collected and fellow comrades who have served wanted to use technology to not only give them a voice, but to also raise awareness around an important issue. There is now a data visualization tool that shines new light on the backlog through the power of our stories. It’s called The Wait We Carry, www.thewaitwecarry.org. Delaware Commissioner, John Hampton, who is an “At Large” representative along with fellow Commissioner, Angela Showell, are in the works of connecting with this organization in an attempt to establish a Delaware Chapter of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans that will educate, empower and connect the right people to the right information. Submitted by John Hampton, Commissioner “At Large”, Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs.

**HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING
LICENSES UPDATE**

Previously, the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs had issued disabled veterans a basic Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Licenses in compliance with Title 7, Chapter 5, Section 502 of Delaware Code. Newly imposed regulations require that the license be issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNREC). Delaware veterans with a sixty percent disability or greater are eligible for the fee exempt license. There are several methods available for making your application. DNREC does require a letter of disability rating from the VA and proof of residency. *For additional information contact the Division of Fish & Wildlife at 302-739-9918, or www.dnrec.delaware.gov.*

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs



(New Castle County)

Mr. John Williams - Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, DE may be reached Monday-Friday, (8:00 AM-4:00 PM) at (302) 365-8231. Please call for an appointment.

(Kent County)

Mr. Charles Murrell - Dover may be reached Monday-Friday (8:30 AM-4:30 PM) at (302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 (in State). Please call for an appointment.

(Sussex County)

Ms. Laurie Corsa may be reached:
Mondays & Fridays - Georgetown Vet Center (8:00 AM-4:30 PM) at (302) 994-2511 Ext 2361
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays - Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Millsboro, DE (8:30 AM-4:00 PM) at (302) 648-3068. Please call for an appointment.

American Legion

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



- OCT 11 Walter L Fox, Post #2 302-674-3922
(11:00-3:00)
- NOV 01 Oak Orchard/Riverdale, 302-945-1673
Post #28 (10:00-2:00)
- NOV 08 Walter L Fox, Post #2 302-674-3922
(11:00-3:00)
- DEC 06 Oak Orchard/Riverdale, 302-945-1673
Post #28 (10:00-2:00)
- DEC 13 Walter L Fox, Post #2 302-674-3922
(11:00-3:00)
- DEC 20 William T. Spooner 302-645-1751
Post #17 (10:00-2:00)

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 & Trng)
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)

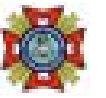
Darrell Johnson, Sr., National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 26, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 993-7252 or (302) 993-7253. Mr. Johnson will make home visits upon request for Vets who do not have transportation to the VA. He will be in the Oak Orchard area the 1st Tuesday, Dover the 2nd Tuesday, and Frederica the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

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 Thursday
Delaware DOL (993-7260) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milford VFW (422-4412) 1:30-4:00 PM
- 2nd Thursday
Delaware DOL (993-7260) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milton VFW (684-4975) 1:30-4:00 PM
- 3rd Thursday

Delaware DOL (993-7260) 8:00-11:00 AM
 Rehoboth VFW (227-3469) 1:30-4:00 PM
 4th Thursday
 Delaware DOL (993-7260) 8:00-11:00 AM
 Seaford VFW (629-3092) 1:30-4:00 PM
 5th Thursday
 Delaware DOL (993-7260) 8:00-11:00 AM

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.

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

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
 Toney Fragier (Newark).....302-451-3453
 Cliff Rumph (Dover).....302-857-5866
 Kevin Gunning (Dover).....302-857-5870
 Dawn Smith (Georgetown).....302-858-5233

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

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) 365-5670
 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
 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
 Karen Kelly.....(302) 834-9659
 E-mail: karenleakelly@verizon.net
 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
 WAVES Nat'l
 Ruth Harden.....(302) 998-1373



Paul Lardizzone (Chairman).....DAV
 Ronald Sarg (Vice Chairman).....MOAA
 Charles T. Armbruster..... American Legion
 Cornelius "Bill" Carroll.....MOPH
 Robert P. Corsa..... VVA
 William C. Farley.....MCL
 George T. Goss..... KWVA
 John Hampton.....At Large
 Ruth B. Harden.....WAVES NAT'L
 Charles Keithley.....40 & 8
 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



Good with Computers? Looking for a Job?

Cybersecurity is among our country's fastest growing careers

We Invite You to the Cyber Aces State Championship
Top competitors are expected to receive job offers

Free Registration and Training are open today
Register today at www.cyberaces.org

Who: Veterans – College Students - Career Changers – High School Students

What: Cyber Aces State Championship Competition

How: Free on-line tutorial lessons and competition

When: Registration is open now until October 12

In September, Governor Markell announced the Delaware Cyber Challenge to protect our country and build a path to a cybersecurity career.

- Multi-level competition includes training
- Top qualifiers to compete for State Championship
- Competition shows employers you are ready to work

These entry-level events will focus on cybersecurity fundamentals

- Networking
- Operating Systems
- System Administration

Cybersecurity is among our country's fastest-growing careers

Sign-up today

Delaware Military Heritage & Education Foundation, Inc.

MILITARY HERITAGE DAY 2013



SAVE THE DATE

October 12, 2013

Living History On Line Weekend

At Fort DuPont in Delaware City

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Artillery Demonstrations * Reenactment Units * Theatrical Performances * Historic Vehicles *
Military Maneuvers * Fort DuPont Grounds and Battery Tours * Silent Auction * Military History
Authors Book Signings * Museum Open House * Veteran's Service Agencies * and much more!

Reenactment units & antique vehicles interested in participating, please contact:

Bill Conley, LTC (USAR Ret), (302) 559-5738

Organizations and authors interested in participating and general information, contact:

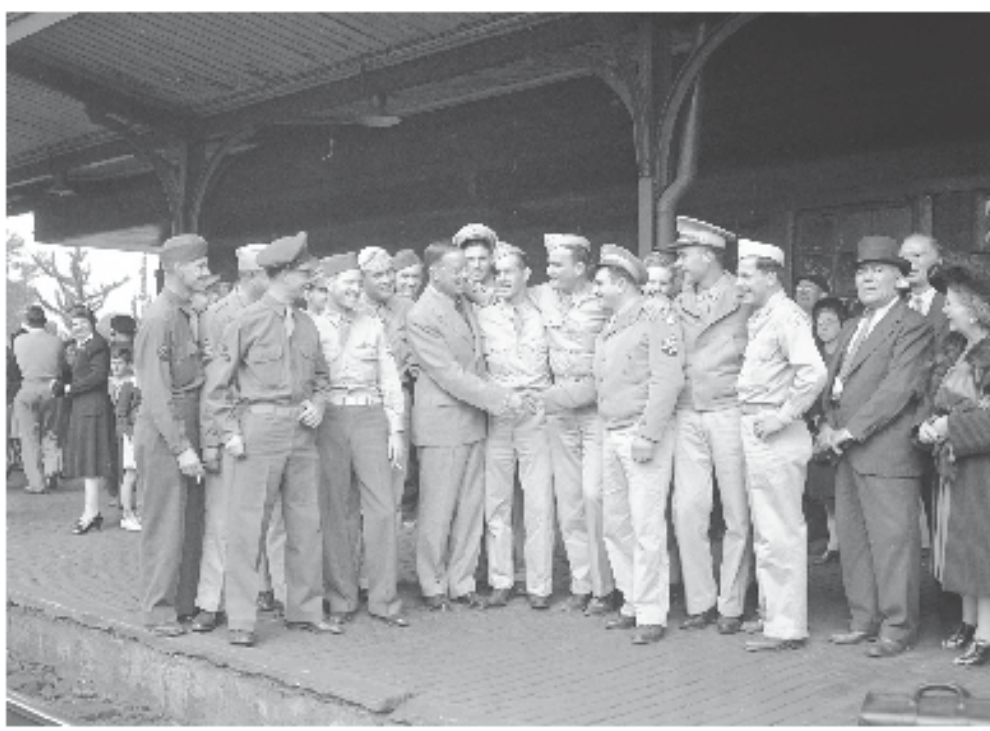
Stephanie Przybylek, Executive Director, (302) 757-0777, stephaniep@demilitaryheritage.org

Delaware Military Heritage & Education Foundation, Inc.

100 West 10th Street, Suite 1004, Wilmington, DE 19801

www.demilitaryheritage.org

Help us honor Delaware's "Greatest Generation" as we dedicate a Delaware World War II Memorial Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013, at 12:00 p.m., Legislative Hall, Dover



Delaware Governor Walter W. Bacon bids farewell to members of Delaware's 198th Coast Artillery at the Wilmington Train Station in 1942, as they prepare to embark for California, enroute to combat in the South Pacific Campaign.

The Delaware General Assembly, the Delaware Department of State and the Delaware Veterans Commission invite you to attend dedication ceremonies (rain or shine) for a new World War II Memorial on the south side of the Legislative Hall grounds. Parking is available all around the building, which sits on Legislative Avenue between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard North and South in Dover. A special World War II Exhibit and refreshments will follow at the Delaware Public Archives adjacent to Legislative Hall.

For further information, please contact the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs at
(302) 739-2792 or www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov



Poker Run



November 23 2013

Kent Co

American Legion 835 S. Bay Rd

Dover, DE

Sussex Co

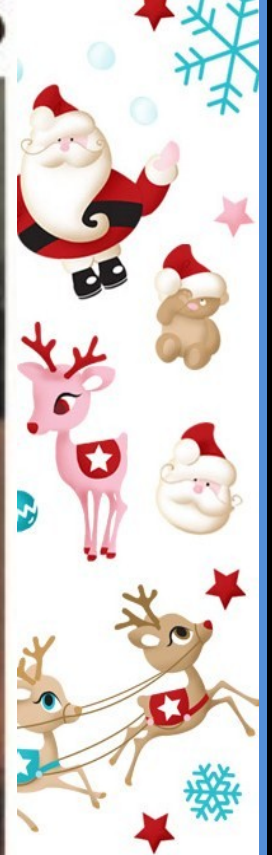
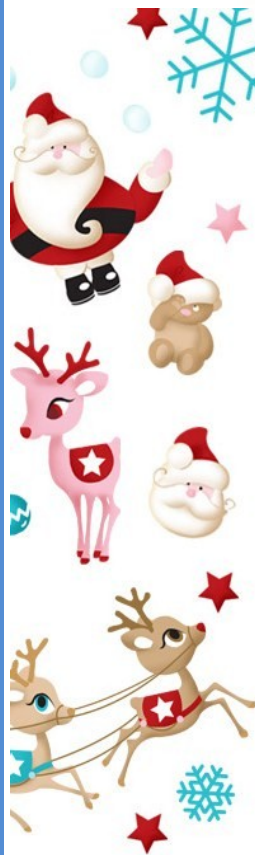
VFW 9767 Middleford Rd

Seaford, DE

Rain

Shine

TOYS FOR TOTS



Contact info
Dave Hall
670-2313
Maniac
228-1286



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

SIGN UP

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

\$10 OR NEW UNWRAPPED TOY



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STATE OF DELAWARE
"Serving Delaware's Veterans"

