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

www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov

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Director's Corner



A C5 Galaxy Cargo plane flew over my home the other day. Although I live in Kent County, my home is not under the flight path so I was surprised to see it idle by. As I looked at the gray fuselage my thoughts returned to earlier times with Dover C5s. I remember arriving at Dover in the mid-1980s wondering how the large craft remained in the air and why it was so loud. I remember taking a Dover C5, (space-available) back home, from RAF Mildenhall, and how solemn the flight was because a flag draped casket commanded the cargo bay as a "fallen hero" returned home for the last time. I remember loading/unloading Dover C5s with Aerial Port Airmen in Kandahar, Afghanistan making sure equipment and supplies sustained Enduring Freedom war efforts. Yes the C5 is an Air Force transporter, but with its U.S. Flag on the tail, it serves as a reminder for all military components. As Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, and Coast Guard Veterans glance up at the C5, maybe they are transported back to their time in the military. As they hear the engines, memories of their service, begin to pour in and they acknowledge the pride of serving our nation. Veterans comprise eight percent of Delaware's population and our commitment to service makes us unique. So as you see a military plane, helicopter, or ship, keep those memories flowing, share your stories with those who are unaware, and thank you for your dedicated service to our nation.





In memory of Dr. Daniel E. Coons



October 6,1932- May 3, 2017



Daniel E. Coons, passed away at his home surrounded by family. He was born in Kingston, NY to Russell T. and Mildred A. (Rittie) Coons. He was raised in Stamford, NY. He attended Champlain College before receiving his Bachelor's degree at Harper College. He received his Master's degree and Doctorate of Education from the State University of NY at Albany.

He served in the US Army overseas during the Korean War era. Upon returning to the states, he taught history and coached football from 1958-1968 at Cooperstown, NY. It was as a teacher and mentor that Dan found his true calling. He went on to teach at the State University College at Oneonta before moving to Dover, Delaware to take a position as Director of Libraries and Learning Resources at Delaware State University. In 1987, Dan combined his love of teaching with his passion for flying and founded the Airway Science Department of DE State University. He continued to serve as the aviation program director until retiring for the first time in 1992.

Following this retirement, he moved to Cairo, Egypt for two years, where he worked through a USAID grant to oversee the construction of the Egyptian National Agricultural Library. Upon completion of the project, he returned to chair the aviation department of Del State from 1995-1997 and continued part time until 2006. In 1985, he married JoAnn (Kakos) Coons, the love of his life. They formed an inseparable partnership during their 32 years of marriage, traveling the world and embarking on great adventures.

His greatest legacy may be the creation of the aviation program at Delaware State University. This unique program provides opportunities to minority students in a field rarely available to them and which produces a large number of professional pilots. "Doc," as he was called by his students, had a deep love and admiration for his students, who continued to stay in touch throughout his life and who he fondly referred to as his "kids."

In 2003, he was honored by Kent County as an educator of distinction. He was a founding member of the DE Aviation Hall of Fame, who honored him with induction to the Hall in 2011. Same year he was recognized by the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP) for his contributions to the education of black pilots. He was honored by the Tuskegee Airmen with the first Lemuel E. Curtis Award for his service to minority pilots. He served as president of the Kent County (DE) Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association for several years. His role with the KWVA lead him to the DE Commission of Veterans Affairs where he was appointed as one of the commissioners by Governor Markell on April 21, 2016.

He is survived by his wife JoAnn and his children, Daniel (Cassie), Kim, Candace to include his stepchildren Karen and Robert with Ann. He is also survived by his beloved grandchildren, Matthew, Bradley, Jennifer, Brian, Ben, Hannah, Garrett, Julian, Gabe, TJ, Alice, Kate, Sam, Leo and Esther.

"Dan was so proud and honored to be a member of the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs.

He felt truly humbled to be in the company of the other commissioners for whom he had so much respect. He also had so much appreciation for Sable, Kirby and all the staff."

-Jo Ann Coons





We wanted to share part of the letter that Dr. and Mrs. Coons received from the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals.



In recognition of your extraordinary accomplishments and contributions to OBAP and the aerospace industry as an aviation Pioneer, it is our honor to induct you into the OBAP Hall of Fame. By your example, you opened the path for many to follow and what was started more than 40 years ago has increased our membership to over 5,000 today. Thanks to you, our members design, build, repair and fly almost every type of aircraft in operation today.

From career days in elementary schools, ACE Academies nationwide and flight academies, we are accomplishing the mission to educate our youth and provide career opportunities to create the next generation of aerospace professionals. Because of your efforts, we have reached over 500,000 students and given more than \$4 million in scholarships to deserving candidates. Our Cradle to Career programs under Project Aerospace is having a huge impact within the aerospace community.

As you may know, our current programs include: Aerospace Professionals in Schools (APIS), Aerospace Career Education Academies (ACE), Aerospace Flight Academies (SFA, PPA), Aerospace Professional Development (APDP), career fairs and a new area of opportunity – Robotics and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's). With airlines and aerospace companies hiring now, the future looks very bright for young adults considering a career in our industry.

As we prepare to celebrate our 41st Annual Convention and Career Exposition at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, August 9 – 11, 2017, we are honored to invite you to celebrate this milestone with us. We are proud of your accomplishments; you are truly "The Wind Beneath our Wings".

Vanessa Blacknall-Jamison Chairwoman **Board of Directors**













FUNDRAISER FOR CPL BALLARD

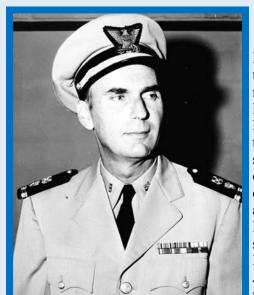
On May 7th, we had a fundraiser for Cpl Ballard. Prior to the event we've been seeing and hearing how much people were looking forward to this event. They wanted to come out and pay their respect to Cpl Ballard, they wanted to donate in his name, they wanted to celebrate his life and remember his legacy.

The BBQ cookers got here at 5:00AM and started cooking right away with the air filled with a sweet BBQ smell. We set the start time for 10:00 with a short ceremony to say thank you and to honor Cpl Ballard. We had so much support from the community the DSP had the Mounted Patrol and K9 units here doing demos and talking to everyone, the Christiana fire company brought out 3 of their trucks, several motorcycle groups came out, car clubs, veterans organizations, we even had a fly over, not planned but great timing, by four C130s from the Delaware National Guard shortly after the national anthem played. The event had a street fair vibe all day with our parking lot and store packed with people. We rolled out our third banner to start the day and in one day they filled a 4'x10' banner on both sides. As the morning went on we had more and more people coming in to the store dropping \$20 for a brownie \$100 for a pulled pork sandwich without blinking an eye. It was heartwarming to see how the community came together. We were so privileged to have Cpl Ballard's Wife, Louise, come by and spent over an hour here. She is a remarkably strong woman stopping to say thank you to everyone, taking hugs from total strangers and taking the time to thank so many of our outfitters for all they were doing that day. We raised over \$24,000 in Cpl









Herman "Hank" Schmidt

March 26, 1921 ~ March 16, 2017 (age 95)

Herman "Hank" Schmidt, 95, of Milford DE died Thursday, March 16,2017 at the Delaware Veterans Home. Hank was born in Brooklyn, NY, the son of Herman and Gertrude Schmidt. He attended the Jamaica Vocational High and following graduation, apprenticed as a printer. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hank enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and served in the Atlantic, escorting ships Europe. Late in the war, he was transferred to the Pacific Theatre where he served transport duty, delivering men and supplies to the Philippines. At the end of WWII, Hank reenlisted in the Coast Guard and served in a wide range of capacities including Buoy Tenders, Ice Breakers, Search and Rescue missions and Lightships. His last tour of duty was as Commanding Officer of the Indian River Inlet. He retired in 1972 as Chief Warrant Officer 4th class with 30 years of service. While stationed at the Philadelphia Naval Yard, he met his future wife Ellen Narbey at the Chez Vous Dance Hall in Upper Darby. They were married June 12, 1948 and continued to dance together for the next 65 years. Hank was predeceased by his wife, Ellen in 2013 as well as by his brother Ed. He was a member and past president of the Milford Lions Club, a member of VFW Blue

Hen Post #6483 and a member of the Retired Officers Association. He was also an avid gardener, fisherman, bowler and woodworker. Hank made friends wherever he went – with a big smile, a welcoming handshake and a story at the ready. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Carper Hosts Pinning Ceremony for USS Delaware Sailor

On June 9, 2017, U.S. Senator Tom Carper (D-Del.), a 23-year veteran of the Navy, hosted a pinning ceremony in his Wilmington, Del., office to commemorate the first enlisted sailor, Fireman James Urlaub, to complete his submarine warfare qualification onboard the USS Delaware. Also present from the United States Navy was Chief of the Boat FTCM(SS) Richard C. Heering, Commanding Officer CDR Brian P. Hogan and several members of the USS Delaware crew. The USS Delaware is the 18th submarine of the Virginia Class, currently being constructed at Huntington-Ingalls Newport News Shipyard near Norfolk, Virginia. It is scheduled to be christened in the spring of 2018, commissioned spring of 2019, and then home-ported in Norfolk, Virginia. In May 2012, Senator Carper, along with Senator Chris Coons and then-Congressman John Carney (all D-Del.) sent a letter to Naval Secretary Ray Mabus to encourage him to name a submarine after the state of Delaware. The effort began after Steven Llanso penned a letter to the editor that was published in the *News Journal* and encouraged the delegation to take up the cause. (*June 14, 2017, Katie Wilson*)



Photo caption: From left: MMWC Randall Wilson, MMW1 Michael Sanchez, Commanding Officer Brian P. Hogan, Sen. Carper, FN James Urlaub, Chief of the Boat Richard Heering, MMWFN Daniel Kerns and MMW1 Lee Jobes. (Photo provided by U.S. Senator Tom Carper's office.)



VA and University of Delaware Announce Affiliation Agreement



WILMINGTON, DEL. — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), Wilmington, and the University of Delaware officially announced an Academic Affiliation Agreement on June 9, designed to improve the healthcare and wellbeing of veterans throughout Delaware and southern New Jersey. The two institutions established the partnership for the purpose of enhancing clinical services through increased use of research informed, evidence based practices, educating future providers, and collaborating on research to promote cutting edge innovations for veterans healthcare and clinical activities related to acute and chronic physical medicine and rehabilitation.

The academic affiliation with the university's Physical Therapy program means faculty and students from the University can practice and train at the VA and at the University's STAR campus. Education and training of the nation's healthcare professions is one of the VA's core missions. "Wilmington already has an active partnership with the university's School of Nursing and we're eager to partner with other schools at the University to help expand the care we provide veterans. This unique relationship with the Department of Physical Therapy provides a new opportunity for us to participate in research studies that ultimately will improve the health of veterans now and in the future," said Vince Kane, director of the Wilmington VAMC. "It really is a win-win for the VA, veterans, and the University."

"The University of Delaware is proud to establish this research and education partnership with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Wilmington," said UD President Dennis Assanis. "Working with the VA, we will advance innovative medical research, improve patient care and prepare the next generation of health experts to care for our veterans." The agreement further enhances the partnership between the VA and the University by putting processes in place designed to enhance veteran healthcare.

"As U.S. Senator, few duties are more sacred to me than caring for our veterans," said Senator Tom Carper. "This collaboration between the University of Delaware and the Wilmington VA Medical Center makes good sense - veterans will get the rehabilitation they need while students get a foot in the door at the VA, and ultimately help fill our growing need for health care practitioners in our region. That's a win for everyone." The University-VA affiliation is a unique partnership that promises to add exceptional value to both institutions' missions.

"As VA continues to expand clinical services at the medical center and at the community based outpatient clinics, the agreement will act as a springboard for more extensive and diverse research and clinical collaboration," said Kane. "Strategic partnerships with world class institutions like the University of Delaware are vital to accomplishing our mission to Honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. This partnership with the nation's top ranked Physical Therapy department significantly advances the quality of rehabilitation services we provide veterans while helping to train future Physical Therapists from the University of Delaware that we hope will ultimately choose VA for their career."

The Wilmington VA provides healthcare to more than 30,000 veterans throughout the Delaware and southern New Jersey communities. For more information about VA health care services, visit www.wilmington.va.gov





Mr. Terry Wiley, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Delaware, celebrated the U.S. Army's 242nd Birthday at the Delaware Military Heritage and Education Foundation's new DE Military Museum.



From left to right: COL (ret) Gary Dawson, President of the AUSA Delaware Chapter; Sergeant Luna; MG (ret) William Duncan, a Korean War Veteran; CW3 Glenn; and Mr. Wiley. Happy Birthday U.S. Army!! #ArmyBDay

Museum Hosted Veterans Group

The DE Military Museum recently housed the 242nd Army Birthday celebration on June 14th hosted by the Association of the US Army. The museum also hosted a Region III gathering on June 24th of leaders from the Military Order of the World Wars hosted by the local Bicentennial Chapter.

The Museum houses a first class military library, the largest in the state. The room has complete audio visual facilities a large conference table seating for up to forty people, Adjacent to this facility is a kitchenette for light refreshments.

The Museum invites other DE Veterans Organizations to consider hosting some of their activities at our beautiful facility—which, by the way, also is home to Delaware's extraordinary military heritage and history. The museum and library are located at the Wilmington Nat'l Guard Readiness Ctr., First Regiment Rd., Wilmington, 19808. (Kennard Wiggins)

BED BATH & BEYOND REACHES OUT TO VETERANS

In June, Delaware Veterans Affairs Commissioner Chuck Baldwin toured the Home of The Brave in Milford. It's actually two co-located buildings, one for men and a more recent one for women veterans. Although not under the direction of the Veterans Commission, he wanted to see first-hand the good work both facilities are doing for veterans.

In 1994, eight Vietnam combat veterans came together over the increasing number of homeless veterans and opened a home with four beds. The current men's facility, HOB I, with 15 beds, opened in 1996, with the majority of funding provided by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs. The Home of the Brave for women was initially located in a rented building in Milford, but the current facility was completed in 2016 with residents moving in during the July 4th, 2016 weekend.

The Home of the Brave now houses 23 veterans. During the tour, staff member Michelle Wheeler mentioned they had a desperate need of bed pillows. Bed Bath & Beyond came to Mr. Baldwin's mind for a possible discount if he were to raise the additional funding. That was until he met with Kerri Mancinelli, assistant manager of the store's Christiana location. Turns out, Kerri's father is a veteran and after their meeting, she and her manager made a decision to donate 24 pillows. "What a wonderful gift for Bed Bath & Beyond to make," said Mr. Baldwin. "The pillows have been delivered and put to good use."



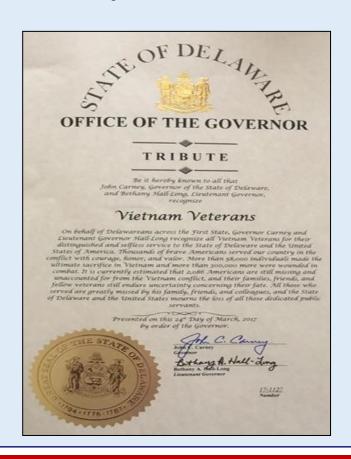
Visit www.homeofthebravefdn.org for more info.



Tribute to Vietnam Veterans

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 83 has had a very busy and productive quarter. Our motto has and continues to be, "Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another."

March 25 - Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day, our chapter presented Vietnam Veterans Chapter 850 with a Vietnam Veterans Tribute from the office of Governor John C. Carney. Following that service VFW Post # 3792 SGT William Lloyd Nelson hosted a Medal of Honor Service where our Gold Star Representative spoke to the families about the prestigious Legion of Valor Organization, our Nation's oldest military service organization, which is comprised of the Medal of Honor and the three Crosses, i.e. Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross and Air Force Cross recipients (our Nations two highest awards for valor). She reminded these surviving family members of the importance of keeping the legacy of their Medal of Honor Family members alive, which they can do through the Legion of Valor. Membership in the LOV is not achieved by birth, social position, wealth, or academic achievement, but by extreme valor. These families represent that extreme valor.



May 6th -Our Gold Star Program hosted our Veterans at the Annual **Veterans Day Carnival.**



L-R Donna Graves, Paula Trout, Rocky Graves, Debbie Marckese and Judy Campbell

For our Troops and Veterans

A Hero's Welcome Delaware took part in the 150th Consecutive Wilmington Memorial Day Parade. We love our veterans and military. We also help with the dedication of POW MIA Chairs of Honor where we have placed 4 chairs this year with 6 more being dedicated this fall. THEY WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. We now have chairs in both of our veteran cemeteries. We are dedicated to our veterans and military. –Roselyn Robinson (DE-Director)



Top Row Left to right Bob Kwiatkowski (Army, Vietnam Era Veteran New Castle County Police, retired) William Thomas (Marine Vietnam Veteran) Merriella McMilan (Army 32 yrs. veteran) Carol Holtmeyer (Air Force, Delaware National Guard, veteran) bottom row left to right Rosely Robinson, Judi Enright and Gold Star sister Rosa Guy (brother Samuel L. Crawford Army Korean War MIA since 1950)



First State Military Academy Holds Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Obstacle Course

CLAYTON, DE - FSMA opened the school's new obstacle course in a ribbon cutting ceremony pn May 26. The course consists of 22 obstacles including high bars, log walls, rope climb and swing, low and high crawls, monkey bars and parallel bars.

"This course really gives us first-class facilities to challenge our cadets," said Col. Robert Wallace, Senior Marine Instructor. "The course requires stamina, agility and speed to complete successfully."

"We really couldn't have completed it with out all the private donations we received," noted Wallace. "And we really would like to thank Larry Massingill and Art Wilson for all their hard work in completing most of the construction of the project."

The course is open to local military service members, first responders and public organizations, e.g. Boy Scouts, Young Marines and public school JROTC units. For more information, please call 302-225-2151.



(From left) Cadet Robert Davis, Col. Robert Wallace, State Representative William Carson, Clayton Mayor David Letterman, FSMA Chairman of the Board C. Scott Kidner, State Representative Jeff Spiegelman, Cadet Alexander Hammerstrom, Commandant Pat Gallucci and Board Member Christopher Martin cut the ribbon on the FSMA new obstacle course.



Cadet Michael Hainsworth tries out the new obstacle course.



Vet to Vet Program

After 30 years serving our country, SMSgt Ron Friedl retired from the USAF. The majority of his service was spent overseas including England, Germany, Japan, Vietnam, and many other locations. About five years ago, Ron attended a DE Hospice presentation at his community center. "I have seen many people who needed help during my service," said Ron. "I have the ability and the time; why not help the people in my own community?" Within a few short weeks, Ron joined another team- the Delaware Hospice Volunteers.

As a Volunteer, Ron makes phone calls to current patients to ensure they are doing well. He also visits patients' homes to meet with them or provide respite care for their caregivers. Ron holds a special spot in his schedule for other veterans through Delaware Hospice's Vet to Vet Program. The Vet to Vet Program works to support veterans with camaraderie and resources

they need. This is a free service through Delaware Hospice; no veteran is ever turned away due to their inability to pay. Ron loves to talk with veterans about their service. "There is just an immediate bond between two fellow servicemen. We are able to share stories and feelings more freely because we know each other have had a similar experience."

When asked why he volunteers with Delaware Hospice, Ron replied, "My motivation to keep showing up each week at 83 years young is because I believe in Delaware Hospice and the job that they do. At this time in my life, the most important thing is that I put my time toward a good organization. I very much enjoy the experience I have had and the people I've met here and also the patients I have visited."



Delaware Hospice is looking to expand its Vet to Vet Program. To learn more about Vet to Vet, please call Maxine at 302-856-7717.

www.delawarehospice.org



Veterans United Outreach of Delaware spreads its wings.

Veterans United Outreach of Delaware has become Delaware's newest Veterans 501(C)(3) tax deductible charity. Since its founding at Dover Days in 2001 Veterans United Outreach of Delaware has been a committee of Vietnam Veterans of America, Dover Chapter 850. We have separated from the Chapter 850 for a two primary reasons: to eliminate restrictions on how the Outreach Team operates that existed by adhering to the national by-laws of Vietnam Veterans of America; to allow us to freely recruit volunteers and team members from all veterans' organizations. While Veterans United Outreach as an entity is separating from Chapter 850 all of our veteran team members remain loyal active members of the VVA Chapter.

Veterans United Outreach of Delaware's purpose 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 veteran organizations in Delaware. It has expanded from Kent County to the entire state of Delaware. Through it all we are constantly changing and growing.

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

We have a mobile educational unit, with an extensive library of information for all veterans and their family members.

Our services include providing:

- current accurate information
- Referrals
- Emergency short term shelter
- Modest Emergency Grants (one per year)
- Any other miscellaneous service we are capable of providing



Pictured above:

Gary Kalmus, VP; Peggy Ball, Secretary; Kathy Steele, Treasurer; Michael L Snyder, President; Larry Ball, Sgt. at Arms.





Freedom 5K benefits the DE Veterans Trust Fund

The Delaware Veterans Trust Fund was the recipient of the proceeds of an annual 5K Run/Walk/Roll at Silver Lake, Dover, on July 1, coordinated by the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs.

"This is another year Citibank has sponsored this event to benefit Delaware veterans in need and we are grateful for their support," said Larence Kirby, executive director of the Commission.

The Trust Fund, under the auspices of the Commission of Veterans Affairs, provides grants to honorably-discharged Delaware veterans in proven need. Donations are tax-deductible.

Visit <u>www.DelawareVeteransTrustFund.com</u>, email <u>dskocik@aol.com</u> or call 302-736-8500 for more information or to sponsor an event.



Dave Skocik, President of the Friends of the Trust Fund; Bill Farley, Commission of Veterans Affairs Chairman; Larence Kirby, Commission Executive Director; (not pictured) Sable Vance & Sherri Taylor, DCVA Office/project coordinators.









Veterans Fred Chidister, Pete Antonelli and Bill Foos- in background Post 17 Commander Ed Bergen

The American Legion Post 17 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17, assured the return of the popular Cape Henlopen Veteran's fishing trip at the Pier in Lewes.

On June 5th, there was just enough cloud cover, just enough breeze and the perfect temperature for this trip. There were over 20 needy Veterans from the Delaware State Veterans Home and Home of the Brave for Men and Women in Milford, that had the opportunity to experience this event.

The day started with breakfast munchies, fishing poles and bait for all, then a full homecooked meal complete with hillbilly chili. All this made for a good day. At the end of the trip, gifts were handed out to help remember this great fishing trip.

American Legion Post 17 Family was proud to serve our Veterans in this way. See you all in September!

Pat w/husband Joe Schneider of the Milford Veterans Home & from the DAFB, Toviel Posey who provided wheelchair help in background- Bill Foos, Bob Bradley & Fred Chidister.



First State Military Women Warriors (FSMWW)



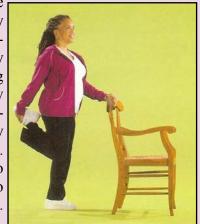
Learn to Stretch and Relax

By Pat Cerchio(-Vieira)

On Saturday, June 10th Catherine McDowall, a Physical Therapist from the VA Medical Center and a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve, joined the FSMWW for lunch and a bit of exercise. Catherine explained that in addition to drinking plenty of water, doing cardiovascular exercise such as walking, swimming or running, you also need to do strength, balance and flexibility exercises.

She demonstrated and inspired others to try some easy

and fun exercises. These exercises needed very few, if any, props. Catherine also gave out stretchy bands. The bands along with a sturdy chair allow you to do a myriad of exercises. You can easily take the band with you. So, there is no excuse to miss out on exercise, no matter where you are.



In addition to exercise,

members got to further relax with making bracelets or necklaces using beads or adult coloring. A good time was had by all.

The next meeting of FSMWW is Saturday, September 9th at La Casa Pasta, 120 Four Seasons Pkwy, (off Rt. 896, next to ShopRite) Newark, DE 19702. The lunch meeting starts at noon, socializing begins at 11:30. RSVP to Janice Squibb at dozendogs@verizon.net or 302-731-0075.

For more information about the First State Military Women Warriors contact: Vice President, Paula Witcher at PAULA.WITCHER@VMCENTER.ORG or 302-505-0849.



Victory Village appoints Liz Byers-Jiron director

Liz Byers-Jiron has been appointed director of the Victory Village Veterans Home and Resource Center in Middletown, Delaware by NVAC, the National Veterans Assistance Coalition. Ms. Byers-Jiron, a retired Department of Defense employee, serves as executive director of the annual Delaware Veterans "Stand Down," and executive director of the Veterans Awareness Center in Greenwood, Delaware. She formerly served as director of Home of the Brave in Milford. She fills the vacancy left by the promotion of L. J. Nick Callazzo to NVAC Vice President of Business Development. NVAC is a non-profit organization that offers transitional housing and resources for homeless veterans who need assistance in their transition from military to civilian life. "We welcome Liz to Victory Village and look forward to the experience, knowledge, and endless possibilities she brings to us," said NVAC President/CEO Ricky A. Hagar.



Tours of Victory Village at 554 Port Penn Road, Middletown, are available by calling 302-832-5790.



EXPANDS HOUSING STATEWIDE

The Delaware Center for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) is acting to increase our ability to provide housing and supportive services to a growing number of low-income, at-risk, homeless and previously incarcerated Veterans. Sadly, the need and demand for immediate housing for homeless Veterans continues to grow. DCHV has opened our doors in Kent and Sussex Counties.

Utilizing a proven cost-effective approach, the Housing First Model, DCHV has created a true statewide presence with our new facilities on S. State Street, Hickman Road and Seashore Highway.

The first step of action to achieve this goal was to increase our collaboration with the Wilmington VA, private and public foundations to obtain these new facilities, immediately increasing the number of available DCHV Emergency/Transitional Treatment beds for homeless Veterans from 0 to 21 beds, and hopefully at least 8 beds under VA CERS contract housing.

If you would like more information and/or partner with the Delaware Center for Homeless Veterans, please contact us at (302) 691-7411. (David E. Mosley, Founder/CEO)

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP)

Volunteer Ombudsmen visit residents of Delaware's long term care facilities who are elderly or have disabilities. They are trained in resident's rights and act as advocates for residents and their families who may have concerns that they cannot deal with themselves. Most importantly, they help alleviate the loneliness and isolation of residents simply by stopping by and visiting. In giving their time and attention, volunteers can make a huge difference in the lives of nursing home residents. Most volunteers find the work very rewarding, and feel that they get back much more than they give. The program also provides opportunities for Volunteer Ombudsmen to serve as friendly visitors/ advocates in nursing homes.

Eligibility: Residents of licensed long term care facilities in Delaware and individuals who receive home and community-based long term care services.

Where: Statewide

For more information about volunteering, please visit the Long Term Care Ombudsman Volunteer page or call 1.800.223.9074 for more information.



Dignity. Respect. Inclusion.



2017 White & Blue Run/Walk Benefits Owens Campus Veterans and First Responders Scholarships

The fourth annual Run, White & Blue 5K and 1 Mile Walk will be held **Thursday**, **Sept. 7** at Delaware Technical Community College's Owens Campus in Georgetown, DE and benefits scholarships for veterans and first responders who attend the college.

Registration starts at 5 p.m. and the race starts at 6 p.m. near the Student Services Center. Following the event, there will be a post-race cookout and awards ceremony for the top overall male and female finishers as well as the top finishers in each age group.

Registration is currently available at go.dtcc.edu/run5k. The cost is \$25 for adults by Sept. 4 (\$30 after Sept. 4); \$10 for all students, military, first responders, and children (2-17 years old); and \$25 for the Silent Marcher (donate to the event, stay at home, and we'll send you the event T-shirt). For more information, visit go.dtcc.edu/run5k.

Delaware Tech -- the First State's only community college offers academic, technical, continuing education, corporate and community training comprising more than 120 associate degree, diploma and certificate programs. The College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Delaware Tech has four campuses across Delaware in Georgetown, Dover, Stanton and Wilmington. Visit www.dtcc.edu to learn more about all of our programs.



Runners take off at the start of the 2016-White & Blue 5K.

Over 400 runners and walkers competed in the the event.

The 2017-White & Blue 5K/1M Walk takes place on

Thursday, Sept. 7 at Delaware Tech's

Owens Campus in Georgetown.

(Jason Burlew, 302-259-6100, jburlew@dtcc.edu)



September 13th, 2017 @ 10:00 am



VWI Odessa Facility 307 N. 6th Street Odessa, DE 19730

1 (888) 838-8380 Ext. 1



Kent Vietnam Veterans to honor Vietnam Dustoff Association-Crews who saved them

"So others may live," was the slogan of the UH-1 Dustoff helicopter crews who flew into firefights to rescue the wounded in Vietnam. That slogan and heroism has been passed down to today's medical evacuation crews who serve in harm's way across the globe.

The Vietnam Dustoff Association is coming to Dover for their September 21-23 national convention. They will be hosted by Kent County Chapter 850, Vietnam Veterans of America.

They have special meaning to Joe Startt Jr., Chapter 850 president, who will never forget his own lifesaving ride after being wounded in Vietnam in 1969.

"I remember being told to hold on, help was on the way. In less than 15 minutes the 'whop, whop' was like an angel's voice telling me I'd survive. The UH-1 Huey on display at the Kent County Veterans Memorial Park serves as an ongoing reminder of their heroism," he said.

Paul Davis, vice president of Chapter 850, worked for two years with the federal government and even the White House to secure the helicopter. That was followed by a road trip caravan to Florida by Joe Startt and other members of the chapter to pick it up with the help of a trucking company sympathetic to veterans.

One of the highlights will be a Friday, September 22, 7 p.m., dinner hosted by the chapter at the Modern Maturity Center and followed by several events the next day.

Saturday's agenda will include a special 10 a.m. ceremony at the Kent County Veterans Memorial Park on S. Little Creek Road in Dover where crew members will be honored, followed by lunch at the Dover AFB dining facility where the Dustoff crews with be greeted by representatives of the 436th Airlift wing and some of today's airmen. A special tour of the AMC Museum will follow.

"These men, several thousand of whom paid the ultimate price saving lives in Vietnam," are our brothers who traded their tomorrow for our today," said Mr. Startt. "We will always honor and revere them and we hope to see our brother and sister Vietnam veterans from across the state join us."



Joe Startt Jr. in front of a Dustoff Huey helicopter bearing the 45th Medical Company patch similar to the one that saved his life in Vietnam.

The \$35 plated dinner will be open to the public on a first-come first-served basis. The cutoff date is September 15. "Sponsorships are also available to help with the costs of honoring these heroes," said Paul Davis, VVA State Council president. For tickets or sponsorship opportunities call 302-697-8384 or email pauldavis5322@comcast.net.





DELAWARE 2017 VETERANS' STAND DOWN

Friday 22 September 2017 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Schutte Park
10 Electric Avenue
Dover, DE 19904

VETERANS' STAND DOWN

Community & VA Services for ALL Veterans

Housing • Medical • Dental • Flu Shots • Behavioral Health • VA Eligibility & Benefits

Hair Cuts • Legal Service • Hot Lunch • Warm Clothing

Transportation Provided at key pick up locations.

Donations may be sent to the "Delaware Veterans' Stand Down" at 12385 Sussex Highway • Greenwood, DE 19950

For more information contact: 302-349-4898 or lbjnavcret@hotmail.com



"FALL BLAST"

Saturday, September 23, 2017

Doors open at 5:00pm
Dinner at 6:00pm
Tickets - \$20.00 per person

Cash Bar



Hartly Fire Co., Inc. 2898 Arthursville Rd. Hartly, DE 19953



For tickets or more information contact:

Mike Snyder @ 302-678-1285 Kathy Steele @ 302-223-8277 Gary Kalmus @ 302-335-4045 Larry Ball @ 302-677-0261

www.veteransunitedoutreach.com

Facebook page: Veterans United Outreach

Gun Raffle

Tickets - \$10.00 Each

1st Prize - DPMS Oracle AR-15 (5.56/.223) 2nd Prize - Ruger LC9s (9mm) Guns can be seen and will be claimed at Smyrna Sporting Goods, 4 S. Main St., Smyrna, DE

- 1. MUST BE A DELAWARE RESIDENT AND OVER THE AGE OF 21YRS. TO PURCHASE A TICKET
- 2. WINNER MUST BE ELIGIBLE TO LEGALLY ACQUIRE/OWN FIREARMS

ONLY 400 TICKETS AVAILABLE!!









Soul Riders Auto Club

Sunday Afternoon Shows

Ches-Del Restaurant

2120 DuPont Parkway Middletown, De. 19709 302-834-9521

July 16

11:00am-3:00pm

Rain date: July 23 (Same time)

Christmas in July

Cruising to A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children after the show

August 17

4:00pm-8:00pm

Cruise * Route 40 * Buffalo Wild Wings

September 24

11:00am-3:00pm

Rain date: Oct 1 (Same time)

Salute to First State Military Women

Sept. show: collecting canned goods for Delaware Food Bank





Facebook: Soul Riders Auto Club of Delaware Inc.

Http://www.soulriderautoclubofdelaware.com

comp1deej@yahoo.com

Kenny Brinkley 302-690-2261 Tony Lewis 302-998-5951







VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM LAW CHANGES

FACT SHEET APRIL, 2017

On April,19 2017, The President signed a law that removes the August 7, 2017 expiration date and allows VA to utilize funding dedicated to the Veterans Choice Program (VCP) until it is exhausted. The VCP is a critical program that increases access to care for Veterans by authorizing millions of appointments for Veterans in the community. This fact sheet highlights the three changes made to the VCP.

Change 1 - Removal of Expiration Date:

The law removes the August 7, 2017 expiration date for the VCP. The VCP will continue until the original \$10 billion dollars is spent. Based on current estimates, funds for the VCP will last through January 2018, but could shift to fall of 2017 if more Veterans use the program.

Impact to Veterans:

Veterans eligible for the VCP will continue receiving care from providers in the community.

Impact to community providers:

Community providers can continue deliverying care to Veterans.

Change 2 - Primary Coordinator of Benefits:

VA is now the Primary Coordinator of Benefits for services provided to Veterans under the VCP. This common sense change VA requested from Congress more closely aligns the VCP with the other community care programs.

Impact to Veterans:

Before this law change, some Veterans were required to pay the cost-shares/co-pays
associated with their private health insurance, now those Veterans will not have to pay the costshares/co-pays to their private health insurance carrier.

Impact to community providers:

 Originally, some community providers had to bill the Veterans' private health insurance and the VCP. With the law change community providers will now only have to bill the VCP.

Change 3 – Information Sharing:

Previously, VA had a restriction different from other health care providers regarding the exchange of health information. This law removes these restrictions and ensures that community providers have access to appropriate health information for Veterans and brings VA in line with other health care providers and federal standards related to the exchange of health information. We emphasize that this does not create an exception to, or weaken in any manner, the protections of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Impact to Veterans:

 Veterans will experience improved continuity and quality of care because community providers will have appropriate access to necessary medical records.

Impact to community providers:

Community providers will now have access to all appropriate health information for Veterans.

https://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/







At Rides For Vets, we help veterans get back on the road.

Those who served our nation deserve much more than our gratitude, which is why Rides for Vets supports them in their daily lives. At Rides for Vets, we ensure our nation's heroes have a reliable, working vehicle so they can live independently, free from worry and stress. Want to join in supporting our veterans? Visit RidesforVets.com.

Ways we help:

- Offer application assistance for automotive grants for Vets
- Counsel Vets regarding purchasing, financing and repairing vehicles
- Act as conduit and provide advice for Vets needing vehicles and repairs
- Accept donated vehicles, repurpose them, or use the proceeds to support the mission

Contact:

Rides for Vets Inc. | 1606 Pennsylvania Ave. | Wilmington, DE 19806 302-656-3100 | Michael Uffner, Treasurer - muffner@autoteamdelaware.com







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

dite the processing of their disability claims.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information please visit: https://www.ssa.gov/people/veterans/ Call or visit your local Social Security Office: 1-800-772-1213



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

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

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

Check out pages 10 & 17 for the latest updates!



DCVA: VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

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

Kent County:

DCVA office in Dover, DE

Monday-Friday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Please call for an appointment: (302) 739-2792

Sussex County: Ms. Laurie Corsa

Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Millsboro, DE

Monday-Friday: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Please call for an appointment: (302) 648-3068

American Legion

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



2017 Scheduled Post Visits:

Friday, July 7th:

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

Wednesday, July 12th: Walter L Fox/Post #2-Dover

10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 674-3922

Friday, August 4th:

Oak Orchard/Riverdale/Post #28-Millsboro

10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 945-1673

Friday, August 11th:

Walter L Fox/ Post #2 -Dover

10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 674-3922

Friday, September 1st:

Oak Orchard/Riverdale/Post #28-Millsboro

10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 945-1673

Friday, September 8th:

Walter L Fox/ Post #2 – Dover

10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 674-3922

Friday, September 15th:

Post #17—Lewes

10:00 AM- 1:00 PM: (302) 645-9965

Disabled American Veterans:

DAV Dept. Service Officers: (302) 697-9061

Paul Lardizzone: (302) 382-3448 H. Mark Wischman: (302) 382-3449

Kent County Schedule:

DAV Headquarters Building 183 South Street Camden, DE 19934



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

Sussex County Schedule:

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

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

Kent & Sussex evening appointments prescheduled by request only.



Paralyzed Veterans of America (DE/MD PVA)

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

2114 S DuPont Hwy, Suite 2, Dover DE

Thursdays: 8:00 AM - 12 PM

Dover CBOC:1st & 3rd Thurs. = 1PM – 4PM

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

Purple Heart NSO (MOPH)

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





Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

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



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

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

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

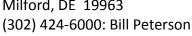
Terry Baker: National Service Officer

VA Regional Office 1601 Kirkwood Hwy Wilmington, DE 19805

(302) 993-7250/7251 or (302) 540-8772 (c)

DELAWARE VETERANS HOME

100 Delaware Veterans Blvd Milford, DE 19963



HOME OF THE BRAVE

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

DCVA's **DELAWARE JOINING FORCES**

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

Please visit our website www.delaware.gov/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:

Cleopatra Jones (Wilmington): (302) 761-8077 Allen Jones (Wilmington): (302) 761-8141 Lisa Smith (Newark): (302) 451-3457

Cliff Rumph (Dover): (302) 857-5866 Kevin Gunning (Dover): (302) 857-5870

Gail Gartner (Georgetown): (302) 858-5232 Division of Vocational Rehab. : (302) 761-8275



Wilmington Regional Benefit Office

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

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

Patient Advocate: (302) 633-5556

*For all medical facilities

VA Medical Center

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



Dover VA -CBOC

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

Georgetown VA -CBOC

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



Veterans Outreach Programs:

People's Place: Listening Post Lower Delaware

Mike Rowe: (302) 422-8033 x 173

SSVF: Supportive Services for Veteran Families *Connections:*

(302) 250-5868 New Castle Co:

(302) 518-5338 Kent Co. - Mindy Bacchus

(302) 332-0913 Sussex Co. - Gary Boas

VMC -Veterans Multi-Service Center:

Paula Witcher: (302) 505-0849

Vet. Centers (Readjustment Counseling):

Vet Center/New Castle Co: (800) 461-8262 x 5434 Vet Center/Kent Co: (800) 461-8262 x 2430

Vet Center/Sussex Co: (302) 225-9110

Delaware Veterans Awareness Center:

Liz Byers: (302) 349-4898

Veterans' Stand Down * Military Women's Tea *

"Give a Vet a Smile" (Dental Program)

Veteransawarenesscenter.org

Retired Activities Office:

Bldg. 520, Room 105

Dover AFB, DE 19902

MSgt (R) Bill Oldham: (302) 677-4610

(William.Oldham.2@us.af.mil)

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office:

Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Ctr. (866) 827-5672



William C. Farley (Chairman)	MCL
Angela F. Showell (Vice Chair)	At Large
Charles T. ArmbrusterA	merican Legion
Charles W. Baldwin	VVA
Eugene Bradley	AMVETS
Paul Lardizzone	DAV
Richard Magner	МОРН
John Hampton	At Large
William "Bill" McMullen	AFSA
Mark Newman	VFW
Barry Newstadt	At Large
Dr. Ronald Sarg	MOAA
Earl E. Seppala	
MyRon W. Smith	
-	

Air Force Sergeants Association	
Bill McMullen(302) 697-	0750
	9130
American Legion	
Richard "Ric" Santos (302) 628-	5221
AMVETS	
	2170
Eugene Bradley(302) 945-2	21/0
Colonial Paralyzed Veterans of America	
Ron Hoskins(302) 861-	6671
Delaware Veterans Coalition	
Dave Skocik(302) 736-	8500
	.0300
E-mail: <u>delawareveteranscoalition@gmail.com</u>	
Disabled American Veterans	
Paul Lardizzone(302) 697-	9061
First State Military Women Warriors	
Paula Witcher	08/19
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Fleet Reserve Association	
Philip Pushel	0681
Gold Star Families	
Judy Campbell	5001
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Gold Star Mothers	
Judith Faunce (302) 475-	8272
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Eugene "Chip" Rosan(302) 678-	8077
	0077
Jewish War Veterans	
Len Markovitz(302) 234-	4785
Korean War Veterans Association	
Edward Johnson	-0228
Marine Corps League	
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-	
Fred Seth, Jr. (Sussex Co.)	0611
	0011
Military Order of the Purple Heart	
Gary "Mo" Morris(302) 422-6	5760
Military Order of the World Wars	
Earl Seppala(302) 239-	.0641
	00-1
E-mail: <u>eseppala@aol.com</u>	
Nat'l Association of Black Veterans	
Nolan S. Lewis(302) 345-0	6911
The Reserve Officers Association	
	1/10
LTC Richard Chappell (Ret)(302) 234-	1418
E-mail: rwc49ps54ud@comcast.net	
Veterans of Foreign Wars	
Paul Phillips Jr(302) 656-	5022
Vietnam Veterans of America	
Paul Davis(302) 697-	8384



DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Certificate of Appreciation Application

Veterans Name:			
First	Middle	e	Last
\ddress:			
itreet	City	State	Zip
Phone: (Home)		(Work or Cell)	
Date Entered Service	Date Se	eparated	Branch of Service
Date of Birth	Type of Discharge	Highe	st Rank Achieved
		(Only r	equired if requesting rank on certificate)
s Veteran Deceased?	Yes or No (<u>please circle o</u>	one)	
_	NENTS: A current resident es of the United States and		re or resident when he or she l.
Please submit this appli Discharge from Active D	cation with a copy of Cert outy, (DD-214) to:	ificate of Release or	
Delaware Commission o Robbins Building 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Sui Dover, DE 19904 Phone: (302) 739-2792		e only)	
Signature of Veteran/sp	ouse or next of kin		Date
Print Name and Relation	nship if not veteran		
Provide alternate addre	ss if different from above		
NOTE: Please anticipate 2	to 3 weeks in receiving you	r Certificate	
TO BE COMPLETED BY DCVA	: Approved	Pending	Disapproved
Name/Title:			Date
OCVA FORM 20-01-95-04-01			



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STATE OF DELAWARE

"Veterans First in the First State"



DCVA 20-01-02-17-07-01