

# \*\*AT EASE\*\*



## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER



# MAY 2007

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
CHAPTER #103  
P.O. BOX 675. LIVERPOOL, NY 13088  
(315) 458-1323

ONONDAGA COUNTY

2007

**OFFICERS:**

President	Ronald Fairbank	(451-5986)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Dick Madden	(635-2019)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Kurt Noll	(492-2606)
Secretary	John Lamanna	(437-5890)
Treasurer	Charles Tipton	(451-1628)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Peter Bronstad	(636-8463)
Bill Martin	(468-5898)
Cliff Canfield	(668-6372)
Steve VanCamp	(454-4792)
Dave Holihan	
Reggie Rawls	(678-2216)
Don Benack	(884-9504)
Mike Haven	(657-1112)

**ONONDAGA COUNTY  
VETERANS COUNCIL:**

John Lamanna  
Dave Holihan  
Dick Madden

**STATE DELEGATES:**

Gordon Lane  
Charles Tipton  
John Lamanna  
Dick Madden

**COMMITTEES:**

Awards	Steve VanCamp	(454-4792)
By-Laws/Constitution	Don Benack	(884-9504)
Color Guard	Cliff Canfield	
Finance	Charles Tipton	(451-1628)
Foundation Liason	Don Benack/Pete Bronstad	
Fund Raising	Don Benack	(884-9504)
Historian	Bonnie & Cliff Canfield	
Legal Affairs	Bryan Hedges	
Membership	Charles Tipton	(451-1628)
Newsletter	Dick Madden	(635-2019)
Nominations	Bill Martin/Pete Bronstad	
POW/MIA	Bill Molloy	(492-3015)
VA/VVA Liason	Gordon Lane	(638-2827)
VVLP	Ron Fairbank	(451-5986)
Watchfire	Pete Bronstad	(636-8463)

SYRACUSE VET CENTER 478-7127  
BUFFALO REGIONAL OFFICE 1-800-827-1000

## President's Message

Another great Watchfire Celebration is behind us and we should all feel very proud of what our chapter has accomplished with this event. It has become a part of the Memorial Day celebration in our community and brings together Veterans of all Wars and their families—not to mention the thousands of just plain citizens that come to celebrate with all of us. Each year this event grows and each year we see more and more kids—which is especially rewarding. When you see Brothers Bronstad, Malloy, Martin, Sims, Edick, Sperry, Canfield, Tipton, Lane, Zinsmeyer, Madden, Benack- tell them thanks for a very good job putting this fire and event together. I know I missed several others---please forgive me for not including your name.—and accept my personal thank you. It is volunteers like you all that keep our chapter going.

The Hot Dog cart opened for business at the PSB. Wed. May 16, and we have hired a full time manager (former waitress and short order cook) to run it for us. It requires 2 people to operate it however and so far Gordy, Mike Haven and yours truly have been taking turns spending a day or two a week down there. Operating this way we have made money each day despite the uncooperative weather—not big money but enough to contribute to paying back the start up costs and at the present rate we should accomplish that sometime next month. There is money to be made with our cart—but we can't afford to hire 2 people to work for us—if we had 3-4 more volunteers it would work out so none of us would have to work more than once per week-even less if we have 5-6 guys and most importantly we could make some good money for the chapter. Please guys think about it—call me, Gordy or Mike and discuss the job. The 3 of us really don't want to spend our summer doing this and most significantly it is not fair of you others not to do your share. The job is not that difficult. This is your chapter and you DO have a responsibility to help out.

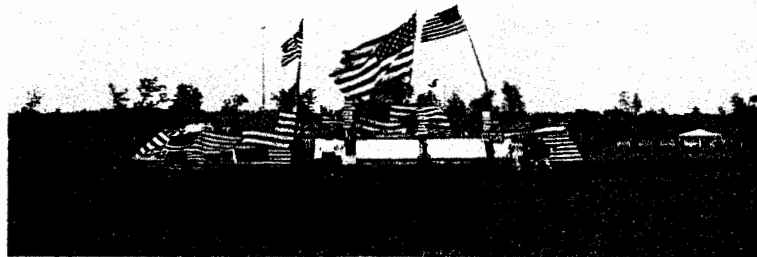
We need our members to also think about getting an ad for the Newsletter. A business card size ad sells for \$120.00 for 12 months. We will institute a “billing “system to make sure we keep track of our ad revenue. This money will go a long way to help offset the cost of publishing our monthly At Ease. Think about it, your car mechanic, your Dentist, your Lawyer, your tax guy, the person who plows your driveway—etc. There are dozens of possibilities and each one adds \$120.00 to our treasury.

Lastly, we need to recruit some guys for our honor guard—I will donate a relatively new pair of BDU's to anyone who signs up and can wear them. At one time we turned out 10 or more guys to represent our chapter in parades, and other events. Think about it—it feels good to get suited up again and hear the cadence.

Ron Fairbank

## May Notes

**Our Chapter television program is on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. on public access channel 98. Our media effort is ably led by Ron Fairbank and his superlative staff in the quest to bring veterans issues to the public and inform our extensive veteran's community. The efforts of the staff are informative and educational - you would be well-served to watch a very good program.**



**The Watchfire was a big success – again – and as usual, we were at the mercy of our central New York weather. Although the skies became increasingly dark as the afternoon wore on, we were all hoping that the rain wouldn't be a problem – it was. Many of us were soaked as we ran for shelter, but fortunately it tapered off as the crowd grew so everybody could enjoy the fire and the good company of each other. The 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry officer's hat on Norm Mordue looked magnificent as usual and probably kept him a bit drier than the rest of us. Vince Morrison looked every bit a good Marine in that sharp uniform that he can still actually wear. Marines always look good in their gear! Everybody who wore service colors made the crowd look like a giant painting of many hues. It still moves me to see all the vets come together, looking so good, to honor their brothers and sisters.**

**The crowd didn't approach the numbers we had last year, but many said that it looked as if we had close to ten thousand, but not much more than that. The idea of barriers on both sides of the assembly area was a great idea, keeping the crowd inside and the vehicles outside. Lumber and scrap control was aided by barriers at the entrances of the parking lot – great idea, since previous Watchfires had more scrap than actual logs. When people saw that past Watchfires were being built, it became a signal to Central New York to deposit all of their garbage wood on site. Good job this year!**

**It was evident this year that there were many more vets from Desert Storm, Afghanistan and Iraq in attendance. Some of the Iraqi vets I had invited to the Watchfire were amazed that such a large number of vets could be assembled for anything, especially vets from all wars – WWII to Iraq. Now that they've seen such a large assembly gathered to honor those who have gone before us, as well as honor those who presently serve, they**

**will go back and tell their units about our Watchfire and have them come as well. The Watchfire has taken on a life of its own and will only get bigger – weather willing. On this night, it truly became hallowed ground. Reflection, remembrance and good fellowship – another great Watchfire, thanks to you.**

**The website of the New York State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America is [www.nyvietnamvets.org](http://www.nyvietnamvets.org).**

**Sue Doan, our State Veterans Counselor, has the following address:**

**Sue Doan  
State Veteran  
Counselor State Office  
Bldg 4<sup>th</sup> Floor 333 E.  
Washington St.  
Syracuse, NY 13202**

**If any veteran has a question or problem that needs to be addressed, give Sue a call at 428-4046 at the State Office Building. She helped many veterans last year, especially through referrals from members of this chapter. The Iraqi/Afghan vets we've helped send to her are very thankful to Sue for watching out for them.**

**PTSD watch: Last year, 216,000 veterans received compensation for PTSD. This figure excludes the 63,767 Afghanistan and Iraqi vets who sought psychological help from the VA and 29,041 with a preliminary PTSD diagnosis. The VA spends around \$10 billion annually on mental health benefits and services. (20% of front line troops in Iraq suffer concussions during combat tours.) That amount will expand significantly in the near term.**

**Editor's note: the second Thursday of each month is the cutoff for articles/information to be submitted for inclusion in the newsletter. My phone number is 635-2019; my email address is [rmadden002@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:rmadden002@twcnny.rr.com). Comments, suggestions and criticisms are welcome.**

## AFTER 37 YEARS, A SOLDIER IS FINALLY LAID TO REST

SPC Francis G. Graziosi was laid to rest on May 20 at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester, NY 37 years after he was killed in a helicopter crash at age 19 in Vietnam while serving on his first combat mission as a member of the Americal Division. His funeral and graveside ceremony, with full military honors, were stirring tributes to the only child of George and Mildred Graziosi, both now deceased.

On that Saturday, about 200 people, including his many cousins and their children, six of whom served as pallbearers, aunts, uncles, extended family members and friends celebrated his life with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Jude the Apostle Church in Gates, NY. In his homily, Rev. Michael Schramel said "We come together today not so much to mourn as to celebrate a man of his convictions." One of SPC Graziosi's cousins, Gary Tomaselli, said in a eulogy that when they were boys, he and Francis were inseparable. "Francis, you left us too early," he said. "We loved the boy, but only heard about the man."

Before the funeral under a bright blue sky, soldiers from the Rochester Region New York Military Forces Honor Guard were joined outside St. Jude by an honor guard from Rochester Chapter #20, Vietnam Veterans of America, representatives from other veterans organizations, a large contingent of Patriot Guard Riders and by large group of riders from the Hannibal American Legion. The Patriot Guard Riders were formed in 2005 to show respect at funerals for "those who risk their lives for America's freedom and security." Eighty five riders came on motorcycles, and before the funeral they stood at attention outside the church presenting a phalanx of four dozen American flags.

Twenty six members of the Knights of Columbus stood at attention, swords drawn, as SPC Graziosi's flag-draped coffin was carried to and from the church and then from the hearse to the grave site. At the cemetery, six members of the Military Forces Honor Guard carried the coffin to the grave site, stretched the flag tight and held it just above the coffin as Rev. Schramel recited prayers in which he described the grave as a sign of hope and resurrection. To the east of the grave site, other members of the honor guard fired the traditional three volleys, signifying that the deceased has been cared for. To the north, a bugler played Taps as two UH60 Blackhawk helicopters flew over the gravesite. VVA Chapter #103, represented by Kurt Noll, placed the flower arrangement of the Vietnam Service Bar at the Gravesite. Maj. Christopher Fahrenbach of Brockport, who led the Honor Guard, took the folded flag and presented it to SPC Graziosi's aunt, Josephine LaBue, 93, of Webster, NY, who provided the DNA sample.

Welcome Home, Brother - Welcome Home.

## **WALSH SUPPORTS IMPROVEMENTS TO VETERANS CARE**

*House of Representatives Passes Seven Bills to Expand Care for Military Veterans*

**Washington DC** - Congressman Jim Walsh supported a series of legislative measures that the House of Representatives approved yesterday in an effort to upgrade and expand benefits for our nation's military veterans. The seven bills cover a variety of areas ranging from improving treatment for traumatic brain injury, expanding eligibility for vocational rehabilitation benefits and improving outreach activities to veterans.

- 1. H.R. 612 - to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge or release.*
- 2. H.R. 2199 - to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain improvements in the treatment of individuals with traumatic brain injuries.*
- 3. H.R. 2239 - to expand eligibility for vocational rehabilitation benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*
- 4. H.R. 67 - to improve the outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.*
- 5. H.R. 1470 - to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.*
- 6. H.R. 1660 - to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region.*
- 7. H. Res. 392 - to urge Americans and people of all nationalities to visit the American Cemeteries, Memorial and Markers.*

"As we begin to celebrate Memorial Day by honoring our nation's war heroes, I think it is only appropriate the Congress came together to show our continued support and commitment to our veterans and their families," said Walsh.

"Many are concerned that the current war funding debate in Congress will overshadow or marginalize the needs of our veterans. This series of bills shows exactly how committed and united I am to these issues.

"As a nation we are forever indebted to the men, women and families of the U.S. Armed Forces and no matter what the cost, we as a Congress will find the money or the means to support our veterans."

All seven bills now move to the U.S. Senate where they wait for further consideration.

END

Daniel J. Gage  
Chief of Staff / Media Affairs  
Office of Rep. James T. Walsh (NY-25)  
2372 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3701  
(202) 225-4042 fax  
<http://walsh.house.gov>

Syracuse  
.COM

## The Post-Standard

### Study: Vitamins tied to prostate cancer

5/15/2007, 11:17 p.m. ET

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's more worrisome news about vitamins: Taking too many may increase men's risk of dying from prostate cancer.

The study, being published Wednesday, doesn't settle the issue. But it is the biggest yet to suggest high-dose multivitamins may harm the prostate, and the latest chapter in the confusing quest to tell whether taking various vitamins really helps a variety of conditions — or is a waste of money, or worse.

Government scientists turned to a study tracking the diet and health of almost 300,000 men. About a third reported taking a daily multivitamin, and 5 percent were heavy users, swallowing the pills more than seven times a week.

Within five years of the study's start, 10,241 men had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Some 1,476 had advanced cancer; 179 died.

Heavy multivitamin users were almost twice as likely to get fatal prostate cancer as men who never took the pills, concludes the study in Wednesday's *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Here's the twist: Overall, the researchers found no link between multivitamin use and early-stage prostate cancer.

The researchers speculate that perhaps high-dose vitamins had little effect until a tumor appeared, and then could spur its growth.

While similar but smaller studies have suggested a link, too, more rigorous research is needed, caution the National Cancer Institute scientists. This newest study involves men who voluntarily took vitamins, and those most at risk — perhaps because they had a family history of the disease — may have been more likely to take the pills in hopes of avoiding their fate.

Still, "the findings lend further credence to the possibility of harm associated with increased use of supplements," Dr. Christian Glud of Copenhagen University Hospital and Dr. Goran Bjelakovic of Serbia's University of Nis wrote in an accompanying editorial.

Copyright 2007 syracuse.com. All Rights Reserved.



UNITED STATES SENATOR · NEW YORK

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

P R E S S R E L E A S E



For Immediate Release  
April 10, 2007

Contact:  
Nina Blackwell  
[Nina\\_Blackwell@clinton.senate.gov](mailto:Nina_Blackwell@clinton.senate.gov)  
917-584-4314

## SENATOR CLINTON CONTINUES FIGHT FOR OUR TROOPS & VETERANS

*Visit to three Upstate New York VA & Military Installations Kicks off Week of Continued Focus on Troop & Veterans Issues*

*Senator has authored legislative package to help U.S. troops and their families to transition after deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan*

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, today kicked off a week of continued focus on issues affecting our men and women in uniform. Visiting Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers in Syracuse and Canandaigua, NY, and then visit Ft. Drum, home of the Army's 10th Mountain Division, the Senator highlighted the need to provide support to our troops and their families.

Senator Clinton recently introduced a package of legislation aimed at helping U.S. troops and their families to transition after deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan, including;

- the Heroes at Home Act of 2007 to get them the help they need by improving the detection, assessment and treatment of traumatic brain injury and expanding support systems for members and former members of the Armed Services with traumatic brain injury and their families, and
- the Restoring Disability Benefits for Injured and Wounded Warriors Act of 2007 and the Protecting Military Family Financial Benefits Act of 2007 to help ensure that wounded soldiers receive the disability benefits they need and deserve and to further protect military family financial benefits.

“When our brave men and women go to war, they should expect to be supported before they leave and be treated as heroes when they return, with the promise of adequate assistance and healthcare. That is the promise our country must keep to the men and women who enlist, who fight, and who return home often bearing the visible and invisible scars of sacrifice. This should be a time when we do more for our troops and their families, not less,” Senator Clinton said.

“These bills will help our soldiers and their families if they suffer or are wounded, they will help to ensure that wounded soldiers receive the disability benefits they need and deserve and they will help protect military family financial benefits if a loved one is deployed,” Senator Clinton said. “After visiting today with our brave troops and seeing firsthand what they are coping with, I am even more convinced that we must show them - not just tell them - that we are grateful for their service to our country.”

On Thursday, in Washington, DC, Senator Clinton will also attend a Joint Hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to receive testimony on the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs disability rating systems and the transition of service members from the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Senator Clinton's legislative package includes:

## The Heroes At Home Act of 2007

Senator Clinton's legislation will build on the groundbreaking "Heroes at Home" initiative she authored and secured in law last year aimed at helping U.S. troops and their families to transition after deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan and get the help they need with readjustment to work and coping with post-traumatic stress disorder and TBI.

Senator Clinton's new initiative will expand Heroes at Home by:

- Improving the screening process for our troops before deployment to improve TBI diagnoses after deployment. Traumatic brain injury, which affects approximately one out of every 10 returning servicemembers, has been identified as the "signature wound" affecting soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Multiple deployments and prevalent use of IEDs have put servicemembers at increased risk of sustaining more than one mild or moderate TBI. However, mild and moderate TBI may go undetected, especially if a servicemember has sustained more obvious injuries. It also can be difficult to distinguish mild TBI from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder since both conditions have common symptoms, such as irritability, anxiety and depression. Senator Clinton's bill will improve detection of mild and moderate TBI by implementing an objective, computer-based assessment protocol to measure cognitive functioning both prior to and after deployment. Senator Clinton's bill will require that the same assessment tool be used across all branches of the Armed Services and for every member of the Armed Forces who will be deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Helping families struggling to take care of a loved one with training and certification for dealing with brain injuries and psychological injuries. Family members of returning soldiers with TBI are often ill-equipped to handle the demands of caring for their loved one, which in some bases can become a full-time responsibility. Senator Clinton's bill will establish a Traumatic Brain Injury Family Caregiver Personal Care Attendant Training and Certification Program, which would train and certify family caregivers of TBI patients as personal care attendants, enabling them to provide quality care at home and at the same time qualify for compensation from the VA.
- Expanding Access to Needed Care. Servicemembers and veterans continue to face problems in accessing needed medical and mental health care, especially veterans or Guard and Reserve members who live in rural areas. Senator Clinton's bill will help increase the reach of needed care for TBI by expanding use of telehealth and telemental health services. Senator Clinton's bill will create a demonstration project, administered jointly by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs that would use telehealth technology to assess TBI and related mental health conditions and facilitate rehabilitation and dissemination of educational material on techniques, strategies and skills for servicemembers with TBI.

The Heroes at Home Act of 2007 is endorsed by the Wounded Warrior Project, National Military Families Association, Military Officers Association of America, American Academy of Neurology and Brain Injury Association of America.

## Restoring Disability Benefits for Injured and Wounded Warriors Act of 2007

Following up on complaints she heard from New York soldiers at Walter Reed about widespread problems with disability claims, Senator Clinton today introduced legislation that will restore disability benefits for wounded and injured members of the Armed Forces. The act will direct reviews of disability claims, traumatic injury claims and the Physical Evaluation Board process, and re-open cases that warrant an increased disability benefit rating or traumatic injury payment. In addition, the bill will increase the availability of legal counsel for members appealing their disability cases, and direct the GAO to investigate efforts currently being made by the Department of Defense to address deficiencies in the Disability Evaluation Systems; the adequacy of the

## SENATOR CLINTON: STANDING UP FOR SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

As New York's first Senator to serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Clinton has made it one of her top priorities to ensure that our brave men and women in uniform have the healthcare and support they need. She has called for a new GI Bill of Rights to reenergize and renew our commitment to those who wear our uniform. She has been a leading voice for making sure our troops have adequate body armor. She has worked for healthcare that recognizes the new realities facing our men and women in uniform and that honors our responsibility to our veterans. She has been an advocate for wounded troops stuck in red tape, and she has worked to stop in their tracks those who prey on soldiers trying to do the right thing for their families. In recognition of tireless efforts, Senator Clinton has received numerous honors, including the Inspirational Leadership Award from the Military Order of the Purple Heart for her dedicated service to America's servicemembers and veterans.

### Modernizing Health Care to Reflect the Realities Facing Our Men and Women in Uniform

- Recognizing the challenges being faced by troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, Senator Clinton secured passage into law of a groundbreaking **"Heroes at Home" initiative as part of the FY 2007 Department of Defense Authorization Bill**. The measures secured into law will help returning servicemembers and their families cope with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- **To build on this initiative, Senator Clinton introduced "The Heroes at Home Act of 2007" in April** to improve the detection, assessment and treatment of TBI and expand support systems for members and former members of the Armed Services with TBI and their families.
- Acknowledging the increasing reliance on Guard Members and Reservists and the pervasive instances of members not medically fit to serve and lacking healthcare for themselves and their families, Senator Clinton worked to secure in law access to military health care (TRICARE) for all members of the **Guard and Reserve and their families**.
- Anticipating the lack of preparedness to track medical problems our troops might encounter in Iraq, Senator Clinton authored legislation signed into law to improve **Guard and Reserve readiness and track the health of all military personnel**.

### Helping Servicemembers Cut Through Red Tape

- Amid reports of widespread problems with disability claims affecting returning soldiers receiving treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Senator Clinton **introduced legislation that will restore disability benefits for wounded and injured members of the Armed Forces**. The bill will require reviews of disability claims, traumatic injury claims and the Physical Evaluation Board process and re-open cases that warrant an increased disability benefit rating or traumatic injury payment. The bill will also increase the availability of legal counsel for members appealing their disability cases, and require a GAO investigation of the Department of Defense Disability Evaluation Systems, Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Schedule for Ratings and the standards and procedures of Physical Evaluation Boards.
- Senator Clinton **authored legislation signed into law that required the Army conduct a review of wounded soldiers affected by pay problems**. The recently released audit showed 24 percent of wounded soldiers whose cases were audited had underpayment issues totaling almost \$400,000.

### Honoring the Basic Bargain at the Heart of America's Promise

- Senator Clinton announced that she will introduce a new **GI bill of Rights for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**, a comprehensive effort to renew and reenergize our commitment to those who wear our uniform – to achieve a college education, to afford housing, to start a small business and more.

Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Schedule for Ratings as it relates to the nature of wounds our warriors suffer in combat today; and to report on the standards and procedures of Physical Evaluation Boards.

Protecting Military Family Financial Benefits Act of 2007

Senator Clinton also introduced legislation that will protect financial benefits for military family members by closing gaps in coverage for Death Gratuity and Survivor Benefits beneficiaries and improve pre-deployment counseling and services for all members of the Armed Forces. Everyday single parents deploy to distant battlefields and leave their minor children in the care of a financially ill-prepared guardian or caretaker. Unfortunately, when tragedy strikes and a military servicemember makes the ultimate sacrifice, minor dependent children and families are excluded from receiving benefits and entitlements. In too many cases, pre-deployment systems and processes designed to protect military family financial benefits are under-resourced or not available and create unnecessary burden for survivors. Senator Clinton's bill will require each military service to provide adequate pre-deployment counseling and services to every deploying member of the Armed Forces to ensure that families and dependents receive survivor benefits and entitlements.

These bills are supported by the Wounded Warrior Project, National Military Families Association, Military Officers Association of America, American Legion and the Gold Star Mothers.

As New York's first Senator to serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Clinton has made it one of her top priorities to ensure that our brave men and women in uniform have the healthcare and support they need. She has pressed for an independent investigation of the conditions at Walter Reed and called for a new GI Bill of Rights to once again honor the service and invest in the future of our men and women in uniform. She authored legislation signed into law last year that required an audit of widespread pay issues wounded soldiers are facing, recently released by the Army showing continuing problems. Senator Clinton has fought to ensure servicemembers have the body armor they need. She has also secured in law access to TRICARE military health benefits for all drilling members of the National Guard and Reserves and their families.

###

### Fighting for Adequate Body Armor

- Senator Clinton has **led the fight to ensure our troops have adequate body armor**. Clinton called on the Senate Armed Services Committee to hold a hearing to investigate inadequate body armor being provided to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and requested a Government Accountability Office investigation to determine how the Pentagon procures body armor for our troops.

### Protecting Servicemembers from Predatory Insurance and Financial Practices

- Senator Clinton **led the fight to protect service members and their families from deceptive financial sales practices** by calling for Senate Armed Services Committee hearings on the issue and for DoD to investigate the problem.
- Senator Clinton **authored legislation signed into law to provide members of the armed forces and their spouses with consumer education** on financial services.
- Senator Clinton **sponsored legislation signed into law to protect service members and their families from being targeted by abusive financial services sales practices**, including requiring DoD to keep a list of individuals barred from military bases because of abusive sales tactics.
- Senator Clinton **announced legislation to provide service members with greater flexibility and pre-deployment counseling** to help them make the best financial decisions for themselves and their families on military survivor benefits, service members' group life insurance and other critical family planning matters.

### Fighting to Ensure Fair Pay and Fair Benefits

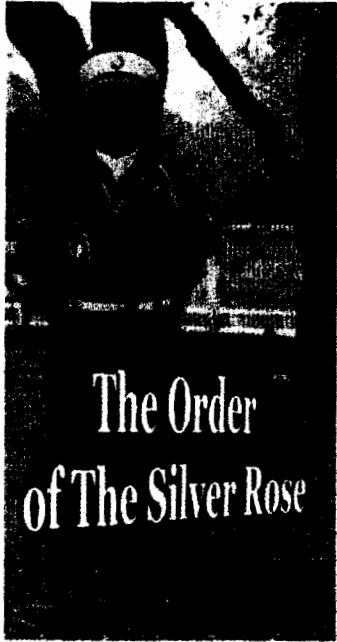
- Senator Clinton introduced **legislation that will protect financial benefits for military family members** by closing gaps in coverage for Death Gratuity and Survivor Benefits beneficiaries and improving pre-deployment counseling and services for all members of the Armed Forces.
- Senator Clinton **co-sponsored legislation to increase military survivor benefits**, which are paid to families of military personnel killed on active duty, from \$12,000 to \$100,000. She also supported efforts to increase the maximum benefit under the Service Members' Group Life Insurance program from \$250,000 to \$400,000.
- She is **working to reverse the unfair policy that prevents disabled veterans from collecting retirement and disability pay concurrently**, co-sponsoring legislation in the last four Congresses.
- Senator Clinton **helped pass legislation to help widowed spouses**, enabling those who remarry after age 57 to continue to receive the benefits given to spouses of military personnel who die on active duty or of a service-related cause. Senator Clinton received the National Appreciation Award by the Gold Star Wives for outstanding leadership in appreciation for her advocacy of the legislation.

### Pressing for Quality VA Health Care

- Since 2003, Senator Clinton **has led the fight to save New York VA hospitals** targeted for closure or reduction in services under the VA's CARES process.
- Senator Clinton **fought the Administration's proposal to double the co-payment for prescription drugs** of certain veterans and has **repeatedly called for full and guaranteed funding of veterans' health care**.
- In recognition of her efforts to help lead the way in securing a record increase for veteran's health care for fiscal year 2004, Senator Clinton was **honored by the American Legion as the "Unsung Hero of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress."**

###

# Attention!!! Vietnam Veterans



22 Million and 1/2 Million Gallons of Agent Orange Sprayed  
43 Approved Cancers and  
Sicknesses by the VA  
Is that Reason Enough For You to  
Get a Full Yearly Physical  
with Cat Scans?

**The Order of The Silver Rose  
a Gratis Medal to Honor these Heroes  
Who Have Been Sickened or Killed  
by Agent Orange Dioxins is Available!  
Simply Contact Us.  
You may also have Compensation Due.**

**Gary J. Chenett  
National Director  
9157 Ann Maria  
Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439  
810-714-2748**

email; [fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com](mailto:fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com)

website <http://silverrose.org/>

**We are a 501(c)3 Non- Profit Tax Exempt Group**

The Order of The Silver Rose  
Gary Chenett 810-714-2748  
Email [fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com](mailto:fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com)

The Order of The Silver Rose  
Gary Chenett 810-714-2748  
Email [fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com](mailto:fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com)

The Order of The Silver Rose  
Gary Chenett 810-714-2748  
Email [fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com](mailto:fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com)

The Order of The Silver Rose  
Gary Chenett 810-714-2748  
Email [fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com](mailto:fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com)

The Order of The Silver Rose  
Gary Chenett 810-714-2748  
Email [fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com](mailto:fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com)

The Order of The Silver Rose  
Gary Chenett 810-714-2748  
Email [fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com](mailto:fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com)

The Order of The Silver Rose  
Gary Chenett 810-714-2748  
Email [fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com](mailto:fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com)

The Order of The Silver Rose  
Gary Chenett 810-714-2748  
Email [fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com](mailto:fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com)

The Order of The Silver Rose  
Gary Chenett 810-714-2748  
Email [fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com](mailto:fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com)

The Order of The Silver Rose  
Gary Chenett 810-714-2748  
Email [fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com](mailto:fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com)

The Order of The Silver Rose  
Gary Chenett 810-714-2748  
Email [fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com](mailto:fuzzyfrog@intouchmi.com)

## **Serving Together is a Family Affair**

*Fathers, sons and siblings experience a bit of home life in the war zone*

While it is not that common for a dad to visit his sons while they are busy fighting a war, or for brothers and sisters to sit down together for dinner in a war zone base dining facility, it is something that seems to happen more and more these days. Here's a look at how three families connected in Iraq.

When each of Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mahoney's sons turned 18, Anthony drove them to a military recruiting station and told them to choose. Two chose the Army and one, the Air Force. Today, Anthony and his three sons are all on active duty.

Last November, Anthony, a Clarksville, Tenn., native was reunited with two of his sons at Camp Striker, Iraq. He had not seen Pfc. Tyler Mahoney or 1st Lt. Ricky Mandello (stepson) for a year. (Jeremy Mahoney also is on active duty, but not in Iraq. The reunion was a surprise for Tyler, who serves as a medic with the 1st Bn., 501st November Parachute Inf. Regt., 4th Bde., 101st Airborne, attached to the 25th Inf. Div. He had only been in Iraq for two weeks when he was flown to Camp Striker, where his father and brother greeted him. "It was an awesome feeling," Tyler told Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie, a 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Anthony's unit) public affairs officer.

After a day of reminiscing, the three parted ways. Ricky, a platoon leader with the 1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division (Minnesota National Guard), went back to Camp Adder, Iraq. "I do not worry about my sons any more than I worry about the rest of the soldiers in the Army," Anthony said after the visit. "When I see my children who are now grown up and serving the nation in uniform, I have a proud feeling."

### **'Typical Military Family'**

Three siblings serving in Iraq also have found a way to reunite. Based at Camp Striker with V Corps' Special Troops Battalion, Sgt. Susan Kabrick and her older brother, Capt. Joven Kabrick, look forward to monthly visits from little brother Spc. Kevin Kabrick. A medic with A Co., 2nd Bn., 14th Light Inf. Regt., 10th Mtn. Div., Kevin visits the base at least once a month. The trio has dinner together, sometimes followed by a competitive game of "Pictionary." They talk about family and how nice it will be to get home to their parents.

"We're the typical military family," Susan told the Victory Times. "The last time all the kids were home was in August of 2005. It was the first time the whole family had been there at the same time in almost five years." Kevin and Joven were previously stationed together in Korea. The brothers like having their sister around because she is good at communicating with their family back home. "Susan usually does all of the calling," Joven said. "She keeps the family informed and lets them know what's going on here, which is great because she knows just what to say to ensure that our parents aren't panicking."

### **Brothers Serve in Iron Horse Brigade**

Among them, the Mouton brothers of Texas have 53 years of experience in the Army. All three are serving in Iraq with the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. It is the second deployment to Iraq for each, but the first time the three have served together.

"When times get hard and you get . . . lonely and you miss home, you have someone from home that you can talk to," Staff Sgt. Reginald Mouton told The Associated Press. Reginald, who oversees a team of medics, says he worries every day that his older brother, Allen, will be the next casualty coming through the door. 1st Sgt. Allen Mouton, who recruited little brother Reginald, leads a 100-man combat unit. "There are always challenges," Allen told CBS News. "I love my job because I love taking care of soldiers. It all comes down to camaraderie, and the Army is the only place that can really give you that." 1st Sgt. Michael Mouton serves with D Co., 1st Sqdn., 7th Cav Regt., in a logistical support capacity. All three plan to stay in the Army until they can retire.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Lee Packnett said that while the Army does not track how often members serve together, the deployment of three brothers from the same brigade to the same base is rare. "There are many siblings in the Army, but rarely do you have even two in the same unit," Packnett told The Associated Press.

*From VFW Magazine, April 2007*

## Veteran Identification Card Replacement Initiative

The VA is committed to securing the personal information of veterans. Getting a NEW Veteran Identification Card is one way to protect yourself and reduce the threat of identity theft.

### WHAT DOES THE NEW CARD PROVIDE?

❖ **Security** - all sensitive information, except for name have been removed from the face of the card.

❖ **Convenience** – your new card will be mailed directly to your home; within 7-10 days.

❖ **Readiness** - future uses of the card will include self check-in to your clinic appointments.

### DO YOU NEED A NEW CARD?

If your social security number and date of birth are on front of your veteran identification card, you should get it replaced.

### HOW CAN YOU OBTAIN A NEW CARD?

❖ The Syracuse VA Medical Center, Rome Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) and Binghamton CBOC are ready to process your new card today.

❖ VA Veteran Identification Card Teams will be traveling to your community CBOC this summer to process your new card.

❖ Carthage, Oswego and Massena CBOCs will have identification card systems installed later this year.

❖ Call 1 888 838-7890 for more details.

**Korean War Veterans Association CNYC, Inc.**  
**CLAMBAKE INFORMATION**  
At Liverpool Elks Lodge #2348

Liverpool Elks Lodge #2348 is available for a clambake on Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup> (1 – 5 p.m.) for our group on scenic river front property. Located at the corner of Rt. 370 and Hayes Road on the Seneca River (Baldwinsville, NY), it is the ideal spot for an outdoor company event or a family celebration.

**Full Service Clambake**

**MENU:**

Clam Chowder  
Raw and Steamed Clams (All White)  
Bar-be-cue Chicken  
Roasted Corn (in season)  
Hamburgers  
Hot dogs  
Italian Sausage w/onions & peppers  
Bar-be-cue beef sandwiches  
Baked Beans  
Salt Potatoes  
Salads: Mixed greens  
Pasta  
Cole Slaw  
  
Watermelon  
Sheet Cake

Draft Beer  
Wine & Soda  
Lemonade & Ice Tea

**COST:**

~~\$29.00~~ Members  
~~\$29.00~~ Auxiliary Members  
~~\$36.00~~ Guests  
\$12.50 for Members  
Non-Clam Eaters  
\$19.00 for Guests  
Non-Clam Eaters

**NOTE: Get your reservations to**  
**Dave Allen**  
**214 Cleveland Blvd.**  
**Fayetteville NY 13066-1104**

*Make check out to KWVA CNYC, Inc.*  
*Indicate on check your choice*

**Deadline is July 16<sup>th</sup>**



Bikers, Jets, Marines

Tired of crawling with the puppies?

# RUN WITH THE DEVIL DOGS!

Chicken BBQ  
Entertainment (DJ)  
Camaradrie &  
Esprit de Corps



Harley  
Raffle



10:50  
starting

Donation \$15.00  
(\$20.00 with Passenger)

Proceeds Benefit

The Tun Tavern

Museum Foundation

Date: September 8, 2007

Rain date September 9, 2007

Ride Starts From VFW Post 8259 Stittville, NY

Registration begins at 9:00AM

Ride crosses the Line of Departure at 11:00AM

Ride ends at VFW Post 5538 Boonville, NY

Refreshments will be provided by  
the Stittville VFW before and after  
the ride. A raffle will be held at the end  
of the Boonville VFW.

(a building & military museum  
project being constructed in  
Boonville, NY by the  
Tun Tavern Leathernecks  
Marine Corps League  
Detachment 961  
Boonville, NY)

Online Pre-registration Discount \$12.00 per bike (\$15.00 with passenger)

for ride info, route map and pre-registration visit our website at

<http://www.tuntavern.us/DevilDogRun.html>

Sponsored by the Tun Tavern Leathernecks MCL Detachment 961 &  
officially by Onondaga County Chapter of AEAFF



# Educating Yourself...and other Veterans on Eligibility and Priority Groups

## Veteran would be considered eligible if:

Service Connected:  
or

Income and  
Assets fall below  
thresholds:  
or

A Member of  
Special Eligibility  
Group:

Who should a  
Veteran contact for  
additional eligibility  
questions?

Who is eligible to enroll in VA Healthcare in Priority Groups 1-6?  
Some Important Questions to Consider...

### #1. Is the Veteran Service Connected?

A Veteran who is designated as "Service Connected" receives compensation for a disability rated by the Veterans Benefits Administration.

if YES - Have the Veteran complete form 10-10EZ, an *Application for Health Benefits*.

if NO - Go to question #2.

### #2. Does the Veteran's Income and Assets fall below the established thresholds?

#### A. For Income level:

If single, does the Veteran's income fall below \$27,790 or if married, does the Veteran's income fall below \$33,350? (add \$1,866 for each dependant)

if YES - Go to question #2B.

if NO - Go to question #3.

#### B. For Assets:

Does the Veterans Income level and assets (excluding primary residence, household effects and family vehicle) fall below \$80,000.

if YES - Complete 10-10EZ.

if NO - Go to question #3.

### 3. Is the Veteran designated in any of the following special eligibility classifications?

- ~ Prisoner of War.
- ~ Purple Heart Recipient.
- ~ Vocational Rehabilitation (helps service-connected veterans prepare for, find and keep suitable employment).
- ~ VA Pension (monetary support to veterans with low incomes who are permanently and totally disabled, and veterans with low income, over 65 years old with 90 days of service with 1 day during a period of war also qualify.)
- ~ Aid & Attendance or Housebound (monetary assistance for a veteran requiring daily assistance of another person.)
- ~ Catastrophically disabled (medical documentation of a permanent & severely disabling injury, disorder or disease that compromise the ability to carry out daily living.)
- ~ Eligible for Medicaid.
- ~ WWI Veteran.
- ~ Mexican Border Veteran.
- ~ Seeking treatment for exposure to herbicides in Vietnam.
- ~ Disorders associated with service in the Gulf War.
- ~ Exposure to ionizing radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- ~ Any illness associated with service in a combat zone or during a period of hostility after November 11, 1998. Service can be provided for 2 years following discharge.
- ~ Discharged from the military for disability.
- ~ Recent financial hardship or loss of employment.

if YES - Complete a 10-10EZ.

If the veteran's eligibility is still unclear, please contact the VSC Management Team  
425-4400 x 53210, 54340 or 54619.

For other information about VA Healthcare please visit <http://vawww.visn2.med.va.gov>

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER #103  
P.O. BOX 675  
LIVERPOOL, NY 13088**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Veterans must provide evidence of service (DD214 or Equivalent)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran (Y) \_\_\_\_\_ (N) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Vietnam-Era Vet? (Y) \_\_\_\_\_ (N) \_\_\_\_\_

In-Country Vet? (Y) \_\_\_\_\_ (N) \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES** for Veterans is \$20.00/year. We accept checks, credit cards or money orders.  
Please do not send cash.

Type of Membership: (  )New (  )Renewal Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

When you need help....  
Medical Problems? Medical Concerns? Eligibility Questions?  
Call VA Telecare  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week  
1-888-838-7890 (toll free)

VA Medical Professionals are as close as your telephone.  
VA Telecare, a service of the Syracuse VA Medical Center.

"Putting Veterans First"

To purchase hats, T-shirts, stickers, pins, etc. Go to:  
Westvale Gardens  
2400 West Genesee Street  
Syracuse, NY 13209

And say "Hi" to Bill Martin!

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER #103  
P.O. Box 675  
LIVERPOOL, NY 13088

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
LIVERPOOL, NY  
PERMIT #55

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

★ AT EASE ★

VVA Chapter #103 holds its meetings at American Legion Post 188, 205 Cypress St., Liverpool, NY on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Directions: From Heid's Corners, follow signs to Rt. 370 (2<sup>nd</sup> Street). Take first left past Washington Park. The Post is on your right side, across from the park.