

Vietnam Veterans of America Central New York Chapter #103
P.O. Box 675, Liverpool, NY 13088
www.cnyvva103.org

November 2007

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER #103
P.O. BOX 675. LIVERPOOL, NY 13088
(315) 458-1323
WWW.CNYVVA103.ORG

2007

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2 nd Vice President	Kurt Noll	(492-2606)
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Assistant Secretary	Billy Yost	
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SYRACUSE VET CENTER
478-7127

**BUFFALO REGIONAL
OFFICE**
1-800-827-1000

The website of the New York State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America is www.nyvietnamvets.org.

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

Sue Doan
State Veteran Counselor
State Office Bldg. 4th Floor
333 E. Washington Street
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.

President's Message

We're having a Christmas Party at our December 20th meeting. Gordy Lane is the Chairman, and the plan is to open the meeting, dispose of necessary business quickly and then adjourn for wings, pizza and soda compliments of the chapter. Please get there promptly at 1900 hrs. so we can get a head count –place the order and get the meeting started.

Watch the December Newsletter for details regarding both the January and February meetings—we plan to have guest speakers from the V.A. Medical Center and N.Y.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

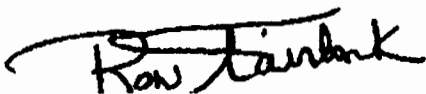
Left-over's from the hot dog cart have been disposed of. The condiments (ketchup, mustard, kraut etc.) were donated to the Veterans Community Care Center on Fayette Street. Beverages were donated to the Rescue Mission as neither the V.A. nor the Central N.Y. Food Bank accept those items. The hot dogs and hot sausage were purchased by chapter members.

At our November meeting: We approved increasing by \$100.00 our annual contribution (prices have gone up the past couple of years) to Patty Chase at the Vet Center for their Christmas Party. Decision was made to donate unclaimed items from our Museum to the Eastwood American Legion Museum. Bonnie and Cliff will be contacting the owners before anything is given away. Please save them the need to call you. Let them know up front if you want to keep your stuff or donate it. Their number is 668-6372.

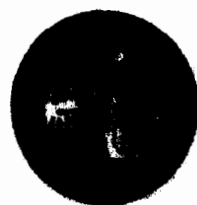
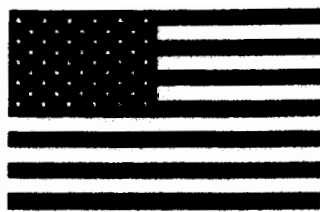
Chapter 103 Honor Guard- is down to six active members-we obviously need a few more to help us get our chapter noticed in the Community. We will be purchasing items to spruce up and standardize our uniform after the holidays so when we do march in 2008 we'll be a sharper group. If you are interested in joining us call me or Cliff (see number above).

Lastly, I'm fattening up my offer. **Sell an ad for the Newsletter and win a prize!** It won't be a cash reward, but instead an "in-kind reward". A hat and T-shirt of your choice from Billy's display of memorabilia at his store. Maybe you'd rather have a hat and a pin we'll work it out. **Sell 2 or more ads** and I will recommend you for an award (to be developed by Pete Bronstad) at our next installation dinner.

For the good of the order,



Ron Fairbank



DAV TRANSPORTATION VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Can You Spare a Few Hours a Week?

YOU Can Help Make a Difference, FOR THOSE WHO
BRAVELY SERVED OUR COUNTRY

SYRACUSE VA MEDICAL CENTER



BUILDING BETTER LIVES FOR AMERICA'S DISABLED VETERANS

CONTACT: DAV TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

****** (315) 425-4353 ******



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 273-8000
www.va.gov

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 2007

Statement on CBS News Stories Aired November 13 and 14

WASHINGTON – Every suicide in America is a tragedy. VA cares about each veteran and their physical and mental health. We have more than 10,000 mental health workers who have dedicated themselves to helping veterans cope with the issues and crises they face. We operate a veteran suicide hotline which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to help any veteran in need. That number is 1-800-273-TALK (8255). VA has suicide prevention coordinators at each of our VA Medical Centers.

VA strongly encourages veterans who may be considering harming themselves in some way to seek treatment from VA or other health care providers in their communities. Our people are there to help during a crisis. VA's care and treatment works and is available for veterans with PTSD, depression and other mental health problems.

VA operates the largest mental health care system in the country, spending \$3 billion each year on its mental health programs, and has taken several measures to increase its mental health services in recent years. Those include new programs bringing mental health into primary care, intensified rehabilitation for those with serious mental illnesses, and expanded programs for homeless veterans and those with substance abuse problems.

VA is concerned that the data CBS presented in its broadcast was not reviewed by independent scientists as most legitimate academic studies are. Regardless of this questionable journalistic tactic, VA takes the problem of suicide very seriously and wants veterans to come to VA for help if they are under stress or in crisis.

VA is constantly reviewing scientific findings, both from our own research and that of others, to guide us in improving care for veterans. We are reviewing the limited information that CBS has made available to us and are accelerating our own research to ensure we are doing everything possible to improve the information available to the medical and research communities about suicides in veterans as a means of better understanding how to prevent these tragedies.



President Bush signs Veterans Suicide Prevention and COLA bill into law

VVA Legislative Update – November 6, 2007

On Monday, November 5, the President signed into law H.R. 327, the "Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act," now P.L. 110-110 directs the Secretary to develop and carry out a comprehensive program designed to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans. Requires the program to include: (1) mandatory training for appropriate staff and contractors of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) who interact with veterans; (2) screening for suicide risk factors veterans who receive medical care at a Department facility; (3) tracking of veterans; (4) referral of at-risk veterans for counseling and treatment; (5) designation of a suicide prevention counselor at each Department medical facility; (6) research on best practices for suicide prevention; (7) mental health care for veterans who have experienced sexual trauma while in military service; (8) 24-hour veterans' mental health care availability; (9) a toll-free hotline; (10) outreach and education for veterans and their families; and (11) peer support counseling.

Requires the Secretary to report to Congress on the program.

Also on Monday, November 5, the President signed into law H.R. 1284, now P.L. 110-111 the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007," directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase, as of December 1, 2007, the rates of veterans' wartime disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled adult children, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

Requires each such increase to be the same percentage as the increase in benefits provided under title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance [OASDI]) of the Social Security Act, on the same effective date.

VVA will post these new laws on our legislative action center at www.vva.org click on government affairs and go to the legislation action center when they become available. You can also view these new law at Thomas at www.thomas.loc.gov

WASHINGTON

Vets make up 25 percent of homeless population

Younger veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq turning up in shelters too.

By Kimberly Hefling
The Associated Press

Washington — Veterans make up one in four homeless people in the United States, though they are only 11 percent of the general adult population, according to a report to be released Thursday. • And homelessness is not just a problem among middle-age and elderly veterans. Younger veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan are trickling into shelters and soup kitchens seeking services, treatment or help with finding a job.

The Veterans Affairs Department has identified 1,500 homeless veterans from the current wars and says 400 of them have participated in its programs specifically targeting homelessness.

The Alliance to End Homelessness, a public education nonprofit, based the findings of its report on numbers from Veterans Affairs and the Census Bureau.

Data from 2005 estimated that 194,254 homeless people out of 744,313 on any given night were veterans.

In comparison, the VA says that 20 years ago, the estimated number of veterans who were homeless on any given night was 250,000.

Some advocates say such an early presence of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan at shelters does not bode well for the future. It took roughly a decade for the lives of Vietnam veterans to unravel to the point that they started showing up among the homeless. Advocates worry that intense and repeated deployments leave newer veterans particularly vulnerable.

"We're going to be having a tsunami of them eventually because the mental health toll from this war is enormous," said Daniel Tooth, director of veterans affairs for Lancaster County, Pa.

While services to homeless veterans have improved in the past 20 years, advocates say more financial resources still are needed. With the spotlight on the plight of Iraq veterans, they hope more will be done to prevent homelessness and provide affordable housing to the younger veterans while there's a window of opportunity.

"When the Vietnam War ended, that was part of the problem. The war was over, it was off TV, nobody wanted to hear about it," said John Keaveney, a Vietnam veteran and a founder of New Directions in Los Angeles, which provides substance abuse help, job training and shelter to veterans.

"I think they'll be forgotten," Keaveney said of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. "People get tired of it. It's not glitzy that these are young, honorable, patriotic Americans. They'll just be veterans, and that happens after every war."

Keaveney said it's difficult for his group to persuade some homeless Iraq veterans to stay for treatment and help because they don't relate to the older veterans. Those who stayed have had success — one is now a stock broker and another is applying to be a police officer, he said.

"They see guys that are their father's age and they don't understand, they don't know, that in a couple of years they'll be looking like them," he said.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 13, 2007

Watch Your Weight, Keep up Physical Activity
VA Continuing Diabetes Education Drive

WASHINGTON – Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gordon H. Mansfield said today the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) plans to expand its efforts to prevent and control diabetes as part of an ongoing campaign to help veterans eat healthy, watch their weight and stay physically active.

“With over 25 percent of VA patients living with diabetes, it is important to find ways to bring this disease under control,” said Mansfield. “VA is doing more than ever to educate our veterans, research this disease and provide the type of specialized care that diabetes demands.”

Mansfield noted the Department has provided diabetic care to 70,000 veterans in more than 200,000 hospital and clinic visits since 2005.

Mansfield said VA plans to keep expanding its diabetes awareness effort as part of the Department’s broader HealthierUS Veterans campaign. Last year, television stations around the nation aired more than 3,000 VA-produced broadcasts about eating healthy and staying active. The Department held a symposium for health care professionals in Washington, D.C., and several public events around the country to inform veterans of the dangers of diabetes.

Annual evaluations of veterans with diabetes show small but continuing improvements in tested levels of blood sugar, LDL cholesterol and blood pressure with treatment, including weight management.

VA’s tele-health program allows patients with diabetes to monitor and transmit their blood pressure and blood glucose levels from home to VA facilities, thus improving their access to care and allowing them to take control of their own health through improved communication from home with their health care providers.

VA’s research programs include centers investigating insulin resistance, vascular damage and obesity, pre-clinical studies of new agents to prevent and treat diabetes and clinical trials of new ways to prevent kidney damage.

Other VA research is seeking ways to reduce diabetes complications that lead to disability, focusing on preventing loss of limbs and avoiding obesity among paraplegic patients likely to gain weight due to reduced movement. VA researchers also are examining the interplay between genetics and the environment in determining glucose metabolism and weight gain or loss.

Some veterans with diabetes qualify for VA disability compensation. Those veterans must have a diagnosis of diabetes and evidence that it began or was aggravated during active duty or within one year of release from duty. Since 2001, veterans who served in Vietnam and later developed adult-onset (Type 2) diabetes have been eligible for disability compensation. This policy affecting Vietnam veterans is an outgrowth of research into the effects of Agent Orange.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Name _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____

Address _____ Chapter No. (optional) _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Sponsor (optional) _____

Individual Membership \$20 1 year \$50 3 years E-Mail _____

Lifetime Membership

\$250 (ages 49 and under) \$225 (ages 50-55) \$200 (ages 56-60) \$175 (ages 61-65) \$150 (age 66+)

Optional time payment \$50 down, \$25/month

Check here if you are a member of Vietnam Veterans of America, or if you are a Vietnam-era veteran

Payment Method

Check Money Order Credit Card Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

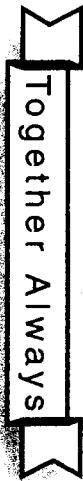
Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Return to AVVA, PO Box 64732, Baltimore, MD 21264-4732

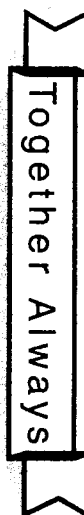
MISSION STATEMENT

To advance the work of Vietnam Veterans of America through cooperative projects and programs to facilitate, enhance and improve communication with our members and the general public and to continue legislative efforts to ensure the rights and benefits for all veterans and their families.



VISION STATEMENT

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America is dedicated to the aggressive advancement of realistic goals with integrity and in the spirit of unity that reflects our commitment to Vietnam Veterans of America, all veterans, their families and others.



**ASSOCIATES OF
VIETNAM VETERANS
OF AMERICA**

An organization affiliated with Vietnam Veterans of America, working side by side for the betterment of Vietnam-era veterans, their families and others.

JOIN TODAY

**www.avva.org
800-882-1316**

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) is a national, non-profit membership organization dedicated to advancing the full range of issues affecting Vietnam veterans, their families, and their communities. Our more than 6,000 members are families, friends, and supporters of Vietnam veterans, as well as Vietnam veterans and veterans of other eras. AVVA is affiliated with Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), the nation's leading Vietnam veterans organization. Together, we work to ensure that Vietnam veterans get the honor, respect, and benefits they deserve. AVVA brings an additional focus on those who stayed behind when our men and women in uniform answered the call to service. This is the extended family that makes up the Vietnam experience—the parents, spouses, children, friends, and communities of veterans.

AVVA is the place for this extended family to join together for action, healing, reconciliation, mutual support, and fellowship. AVVA members can affiliate with any of VVA's 600 chapters, joining in outreach and assistance to veterans, legislative action, community service, and social activities.

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America began as a group of members within Vietnam Veterans of America. As the scope of activities and number of people involved grew, this membership group formed the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America in 1999 as an independent membership and service organization.

AVVA remains affiliated with Vietnam Veterans of America, lending the expertise and leadership of its members in all of VVA's programs. AVVA is a non-partisan organization. Contributions to AVVA are tax-deductible by the donor.

Members of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America have varied interests and talents, used to support a range of programs including:

- Legislative Efforts
- Scholarships
- Supporting Homeless Shelters
- Distribution of Holiday Food Baskets
- Working with Incarcerated Veterans and their Families
- Promoting Patriotism and Proper Use of the Flag in Schools
- "Coping Skills for Loving Your Vietnam Veteran"
- The "Paper Safe" Family Document Protection Program
- Supporting Local Charities



Together Always

For more information, contact:

AVVA

8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3710

www.avva.org

800-882-1316

If your regional office recently determined your benefits, you should submit a reimbursement claim as soon as you can. Time limits usually apply. Contact your local VA medical center's patient benefits counselor to explain these limits.

Will I have to pay for a portion of my emergency care?

You may have to pay for a portion of your emergency care. Your need to pay a portion depends on several factors. These factors vary according to the care you received. Your local VA medical center's patient benefits counselor can explain these factors and how they affect your need to pay for part of your care.

If I am admitted to the hospital as a result of an emergency, what will VA pay?

This depends on your VA eligibility status and other factors. VA may pay all, some or none of the charges after you are admitted. Your local VA medical center's patient benefits counselor



can explain these factors and their impact on your particular circumstance.

Other

You can get more answers to your questions on the Health Administration Center Internet website at <http://www.va.gov/hac/hacmain.asp> under Non-VA Care.

You may also contact a patient benefits counselor at your VA medical center for details about your specific situation.



Department of Veterans Affairs
Fee Support Office

Fee

Emergency Care in Non VA Facilities



