

# CONNECTION



Connecticut Chapter 120

Greater Hartford  
Over 33 Years of Service to Veterans

September 2017

Visit Our Website at [www.vva120.org](http://www.vva120.org)

## Inside This Issue

*Chapter/State News*  
*National Convention*  
*Chapter member honored*  
*POW/MIA News*  
*On The Hill*  
*Veterans Affairs News*  
*VVA Lawsuit*  
*50 Years Ago*  
*Hartford Vet Center*

## Meetings

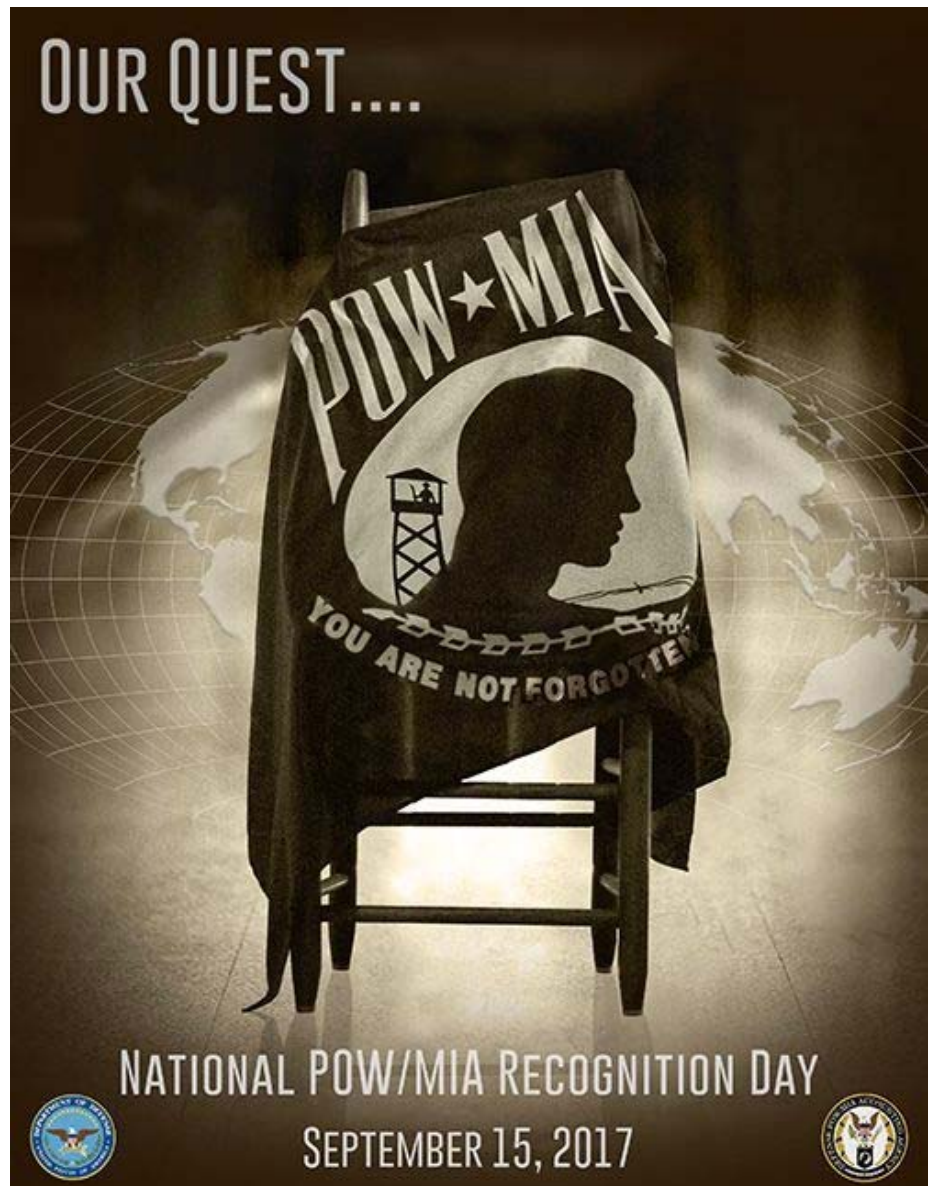
The Chapter 120 membership meeting will be held on Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Machinists Union Hall, 357 Main St., East Hartford.

The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, September 28 at 7:00pm. Call the Chapter office for any changes in schedule. Chapter members are welcomed to attend.

## Notice

If you have moved or changed your address, PLEASE notify us immediately. Call the Chapter office at (860) 568-9212, mail us at the address on the back of this newsletter or e-mail the Newsletter editor at [JRCVVA120@aol.com](mailto:JRCVVA120@aol.com).

**COPYRIGHT NOTICE:** In accordance with Title 17 of U. S. C. Section 107, any copyrighted work in this newsletter is distributed under fair use without profit or payment to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for nonprofit research and educational purposes only.



## National POW/MIA Recognition Day at Newington VA

Our own POW/MIA expert, Mary Beaulieu, will be the guest speaker at the Newington VA for this event – held on Friday, September 15 at 9:00am. Please attend to honor our POW/MIAs and to support Mary.

<b>CHAPTER 120 OFFICE</b>	<b>568-9212</b>
<b>Board of Directors</b>	
Paul Barry	569-3530
Peter Galgano	828-1999
William Chiodo	688-2518
Patricia Dumin	620-4131
Frank Zizzamia	569-0705
<b>Executive Officers</b>	
Frank J. Mello, Jr., President	604-3879
Jerome Blum, Vice President	267-2981
Roger Anderson, Treasurer	528-4338
Peter Lund, Secretary	644-9770
<b>VVA Service Representatives</b>	
John Cutler	568-9212
E-Mail: VVA.Service.Rep@att.net	
Gerald Fabry, MD	887-1755
E-Mail : gerfab@comcast.net	
Gary Waterhouse	656-0430
E-Mail : gwaterhouse@cox.net	
<b>Membership</b>	
Frank J. Mello, Jr.	604-3879
E-Mail: Fmello336@yahoo.com	
<b>Women Vietnam Veterans</b>	
Patricia Dumin	620-4131
<b>Product Sales</b>	
Ted Groenstein	688-5671
<b>Newsletter/Website</b>	
John Cutler	282-7470
E-Mail: jrcvva120@aol.com	
<b>Notary Public</b>	
Gary Gazdzicki, Sr.	812-5703
<b>Vet Centers</b>	
Hartford (Area Code 860)	563-8800
New Haven (Area Code 203)	932-9899
Norwich (Area Code 860)	887-1755
Danbury (Area Code 203)	790-4000
<b>All Telephone Numbers are Area Code 860 unless otherwise noted</b>	

*Chapter/State News*

**VVA National Convention**

**John Rowan to Serve Seventh Term as National President of Vietnam Veterans of America**

John Rowan was reelected to a seventh term as National President of Vietnam Veterans of America on August 11 at the organization's 18th National Convention in New Orleans. Rowan, who was elected to VVA's highest office in 2005, has served as the chairman of VVA's Conference of State Council Presidents, for three terms on the organization's Board of Directors, and as president of VVA's New York State Council. He served as a linguist in the U.S. Air Force's 6990 Security Squadron in Vietnam and at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, providing the Strategic Air Command with intelligence on North Vietnam's SAM sites to protect their bombing missions.

Rowan was a founding member and the first president of VVA Chapter 32 in Queens, New York. He retired from city service as an investigator with the City of New York's Comptroller's Office. He lives in Middle Village, New York, with his wife, Mariann.

Marsha Four of Springfield, Pennsylvania, was reelected to serve as Vice President; Bill Meeks, Jr., of The Woodlands, Texas, was reelected as Secretary; and Wayne Reynolds of Athens, Alabama, was reelected as VVA's Treasurer.

In addition, 19 National Board of Directors were elected: Ten At-Large and nine Regional. The At-Large directors are Dottie Barickman (IA); Richard C. DeLong (LA); Gumersindo Gomez (MA); John Margowski (WI); Charlie Montgomery (VA); Felix Peterson (OK); Dave Simmons (WV); Dan Stenvold (ND); Kerwin Stone (TX); and Sandie Wilson (MI).

The nine Regional directors elected to serve a 2017-2019 term are: Region 1, Skip Hochreich (MA); Region 2, Ted Wilkinson (NY); Region 3, Sara McVicker (DC); Region 4, Spence Davis (GA); Region 5, Tom Burke (OH); Region 6, Bob Grabinski (WI); Region 7, Allen Manuel (LA); Region 8, Francisco Ivarra (WA); and Region 9, Dick Southern (CA).

**Connecticut Delegates at the Convention**

**Birthday Wishes**

Birthday wishes go to our members born in September. May you have many more!

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Paul H. Abel</i>         | <i>Roger H. Anderson</i>   |
| <i>James K. Barile</i>      | <i>Robert A. Bernier</i>   |
| <i>Brian W. Canny</i>       | <i>Stephen Cole</i>        |
| <i>Rodney Conlogue</i>      | <i>Michael DeAngelis</i>   |
| <i>Peter J. Donahue</i>     | <i>Rich M. Greenberg</i>   |
| <i>Samuel W. Kotsch Jr.</i> | <i>Gary Lee</i>            |
| <i>Rene A. Morissette</i>   | <i>Arthur E. Noyes</i>     |
| <i>John J. O'Boyle</i>      | <i>Bruce W. Shewbrooks</i> |
| <i>Robert W. Tocionis</i>   | <i>Tony Villaggio</i>      |

**Happy Birthday!**



Linda Schwartz speaks at the VVA Women's Breakfast during the VVA National Convention



Senator Blumenthal, CT Delegates and National Officers at the VVA National Convention

## 2nd Annual Veterans Appreciation Event in South Windsor

Veterans and their families enjoyed free and exclusive early admission at Veterans Memorial Park in South Windsor on July 16.



VVA Chapter 120 members enjoyed the cool water and lunch.

## Panel Discussion on Suicide in the Military and with Veterans

A panel discussion on Suicide in the Military and with Veterans will be held on Friday, September 15, 2017 from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM in the Constitution Room of CCSU's Memorial Hall.

Presenters from CCSU, the Connecticut National Guard, DHMAS's Military Support Program, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Hartford Vet Center will discuss the issue of suicide with Connecticut's military/veterans, how the issue is being addressed and what resources are available.

## Stand Down 2017



Stand Down 2017 is being held on Friday September 22, 2017 at the CT. Department of Veterans Affairs Rocky Hill Campus from 8:00am to 2:00pm (New Hours). This event provides CT Veterans with access to a variety of federal, state and local services such as: veterans benefits, medical, dental,

mental health, recovery services, legal, housing, employment, education and much more.

Free bus transportation is provided at designated locations throughout the state courtesy of the CT Department of Transportation along with transportation service provided by the CT Department of Veterans Affairs, DAV and Vets4Vets. The transportation schedule can be viewed at:

<http://www.ct.gov/ctva/cwp/view.asp?a=1992&q=566332>

Please note that due to the new hours of the event this year transportation times have changed in some locations. If you have any question regarding transportation please call 860-616-3802 or 3803.

No pre-registration is required. All Veteran participants will register upon arriving at the event.

The CT Department of Veterans Affairs looks forward to seeing you and providing access to many valuable services and opportunities.

## Money Woes Halt Veterans Parade In Hartford

Organizers have scuttled a Hartford parade set for November honoring U.S. veterans, citing the cost and difficulty raising money.

Organizers of the CT Veterans Parade announced Wednesday they are not planning a parade, which has been a fixture in the city since 2000. It had been coordinated by the Connecticut Veterans Fund, a nonprofit organization.

"This was a difficult decision for our committee to make because the parade has been a labor of love for all of us," Ray Lilley, president of the Connecticut Veterans Fund, said in a statement.

However, he said organizers were forced to drop the parade due to the rising costs of producing an event "of this magnitude, combined with funding challenges" and fewer spectators.

He was not immediately available to provide more details.

Lilley and the committee are instead encouraging all veterans service organizations, military and veterans support groups and veterans to participate in local annual Veterans Day observances in nearly every town and city in Connecticut.

The Connecticut Veterans Parade was created by a grass roots organization to honor the men and women who have served.

With as many as 4,000 marchers in some annual parades, New England's largest salute to veterans also had been one of the biggest in the U.S., organizers say.

## Veterans' families feel impact of state cuts to military funerals

The state, effective July 1, stopped paying the stipend to the Honor Guard detail that carries out the salute. The state is without a budget and is operating off an executive order signed by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy that does not include the funding for the Honor Guard.

Malloy's spokesman Chris McClure said the funding could be restored, as the stipends are paid throughout the year and ensuing appropriation or allocation plans could include funding.

Federal law mandates the playing of taps, a traditional bugle call, and the folding and presenting of an American flag to the deceased's next of kin. Additional honors such as a rifle volley are contingent on available resources.

Some veterans groups in Connecticut are voluntarily and, for free, providing its members to render salute.

“We’re not going to let the budget stop us from honoring our fallen vets,” said Louie Robinson, state commander of the American Legion, whose group has continued to provide the service.

In advance of the most recent legislative session, Malloy directed state agencies to find 10 percent in savings within their budgets. Of the proposed options from the Military Department, the biggest cost savings — about \$326,000 — would come from eliminating the three-party firing detail at military funerals. It was listed as fourth in a list of seven department priorities for cutting funding.

Members of the Honor Guard detail, who render the three-volley salute, are paid a \$50-a-day stipend. On average, they perform at 3,500 military funerals a year.

The three-volley salute derives from an old custom in which battles would temporarily stop so each side could clear the dead. The firing of three volleys signified the dead were removed and the battle could continue.

A proposal in the General Assembly, which did not pass, would have required the state to provide for the three-party firing detail. Several veterans groups supported the measure, and were critical of the proposal to cut the funding. In 2015, Malloy cut the funding as part of his 2016 fiscal year budget proposal, but state legislators later restored the cut.

*From Middletown Press*

**Vietnam veteran from East Hampton honored for 2 tours at war**



U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney presented Robert Olivieri of East Hampton with medals earned during his service in the U.S. Marine Corps from July 1965 to July 1969 at the East Hampton Public Library.

Bolstered by friends and family in the library’s community meeting room, Robert Olivieri confronted a harrowing part of his past on Thursday morning, August 17.

As he stood quietly in khaki chinos and a blue polo shirt embossed with the bold letters USMC, Olivieri was cast back nearly half a century — and half a world away — to Vietnam.

As an aide read a citation for the Navy/Marine Commendation Medal, friends who have known Olivieri for years and even his own grandchildren learned about a whole other dimension of the

man U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Connecticut, called “a real hero right here in our midst.”

Olivieri had earned the medal in 1969 but never received it. It was only this past November that he contacted the congressman’s office about tracking down the medal, Courtney’s district director Ayanti E. Grant said.

“He said it was not so much for himself but for his family, his lineage, his grandchildren,” Grant said.

Ironically, Olivieri was being recognized for actions he took during his second tour in Vietnam, the one he promised his anxious mother would not be so hectic — or as dangerous — as his first tour.

While a Hartford native fresh out of high school, Olivieri joined the Marine Corps at 17. He arrived in Vietnam in 1967 and was assigned to I Corps, the farthest, most northern part of South Vietnam.

Olivieri was “a grunt,” an infantryman, with Bravo Co. 1/9 Marines (First Battalion/9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division). The 1/9’s nickname in Vietnam was “The Walking Dead.” Bravo Co.’s nickname was the “Battling Bastards,” Olivieri said.

In 1967, the 1/9 was engaged in “hill fights” with tough, battle-hardened North Vietnamese Army regulars — thousands of them, Olivieri explained.

Olivieri has forgotten — or suppressed — many of his memories of those harrowing hill fights fought in deep jungles routinely swept by torrential rains, he said.

After 13 months, he came home to an America at war with itself over the war. He quickly realized he was estranged from “my supposed friends” whose knowledge of the true facts of the war were naive and simplistic.

“I told them, ‘You don’t have a freaking clue,’” Olivieri said.

Shortly thereafter, he volunteered to return to Vietnam for a second tour because “all my friends were there and I can’t be here with all these idiots.”

His mother did not take the decision well, Olivieri acknowledged. So he made her a promise: “I wasn’t going to be a grunt again.”

Instead, he wound up as a military policeman at the sprawling base in DaNang. And it was there on April 27, 1969, that the incident occurred which earned Olivieri the commendation medal.

Olivieri was flanked by Courtney and his Veterans Service Representative Manuel F. “Manny” Meneses as Meneses, a retired Navy master chief, read the citation.

A fire began in the ammunition storage supply point at the Amphibious Force Transient Facility in DaNang, he said. The fire, raging out of control, ignited stored munitions.

“With complete disregard for his own safety, Sgt. Olivieri voluntarily joined a detail which was directed to proceed to the highly explosive service area and ensure the safety of the Armory, which held 382 M-16 rifles and the Money Conversion Unit, which contained \$450,000,” Meneses read. “After fearlessly maintaining his position until he was ordered to evacuate the area [Olivieri] volunteered to return as a member of the security force, despite the danger of falling debris.”

Olivieri then “remained on the perimeter ... until the explosive ordnance disposal team had successfully cleared the area.

“By his courage, bold initiative and unwavering devotion to duty, Sgt. Olivieri was instrumental in safeguarding valuable government property,” he continued. In doing so, “he upheld the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service,” the citation concluded.

The nearly two dozen people in the room rose as one as they applauded Olivieri, who moved to East Hampton in 2011.

Courtney’s staff had prepared a further tribute, organizing all 10 of the medals Olivieri earned in the Marine Corps in a shadow box. As he presented them to Oliveri “on behalf of a grateful nation,” Courtney looked at the medals and the man who earned them and said, “What an incredible array.”

He became emotional as he said his thoughts were of the 58,212 men — and eight women — who gave up their lives in Vietnam.

“It’s not easy for me to think about the people who died in a ridiculous war, as I see it now,” Olivieri said.

Still, following the ceremony, Olivieri said he remains “proud to have been a Marine and proud to have served my country.”

The medal ceremony was particularly moving, Courtney said, “because it lets us get back to the basics: service to the country, unity and coming together.”

*Robert Olivieri is a Life Member of CT Chapter 120.*

**Newsletter articles/stories/photos**

Any articles, stories and/or photos submitted for the newsletter must be received by the "cut off" date for any given month. Photos must be accompanied by text which describes the event, names, dates and any other pertinent facts so our readers understand the story behind the photo(s). The newsletter editor will announce the "cut off" dates at each Chapter meeting. The "cut off" date for our October 2017 newsletter is 22 September 2017. Due to space availability, the editor reserves the right to include or not include photos for a given month.

**POW/MIA News**



**HR 2765 POW/MIA Forever stamp**

Introduced in House (05/30/2017) Perpetual POW/MIA Stamp Act - This bill directs the Postmaster General to provide for the issuance of a forever stamp that honors the sacrifices of the members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have been prisoners, missing, or unaccounted for and that depicts the National

League of Families POW/MIA flag. Call your Representative to ask them to co-sponsor this bill.

- John Larson – 202-225-2265
- Joe Courtney – 202-225-2076
- Rosa DeLauro – 202-225-3661
- Jim Himes – 202-225-5541
- Elizabeth Esty – 202-225-4476

**On The Hill**



**Trump signs bill to fund veterans medical care program**

President Donald Trump has signed an emergency spending bill that will pump more than \$2 billion into a program that allows veterans to receive private medical care at government expense.

Trump, who made improving veterans care a central campaign promise, signed the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act while at his New Jersey golf club on Saturday, August 12. The bill, which addresses a budget shortfall at the Department of Veteran Affairs that threatened medical care for thousands of veterans, provides

\$2.1 billion to continue funding the Veterans Choice Program, which allows veterans to seek private care.

Another \$1.8 billion will go to core VA health programs, including 28 leases for new VA medical facilities.

“Today is another milestone in our work to transform the VA where we’re doing record-setting business,” Trump said.

The Choice program was put in place after a 2014 wait-time scandal that was discovered at the Phoenix VA hospital and spread throughout the country. Veterans waited weeks or months for appointments while phony records covered up the lengthy waits.

The program allows veterans to receive care from outside doctors if they must wait at least 30 days for an appointment or drive more than 40 miles to a VA facility. VA Secretary David Shulkin has warned that without legislative action, the Choice program would run out of money by mid-August, causing delays in health care for thousands of veterans.

The bill will extend the program for six months. Costs will be paid for by trimming pensions for some Medicaid-eligible veterans and collecting fees for housing loans.

Leaders of the House Veterans Affairs Committee said the six-month funding plan was urgently needed and would give Congress more time to debate broader issues over the VA's future. While the bill may avert a shutdown to Choice, disputes over funding may signal bigger political fights to come.

During the 2016 campaign, Trump criticized the VA for long wait times and mismanagement, saying he would give veterans more options in seeing outside providers. Shulkin announced the budget shortfall last month, citing unexpected demand from veterans for private care and poor budget planning. To slow spending, the department last month instructed VA medical centers to limit the number of veterans it sent to private doctors.

Currently, more than 30 percent of VA appointments are in the private sector, up from fewer than 20 percent in 2014. The VA has an annual budget of about \$180 billion.

## **Trump Signs Major Expansion of Veterans Educational Assistance into Law**

President Trump signed the largest expansion of GI Bill educational benefits in nearly a decade into law Wednesday, August 16.

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act (H.R. 3218), known as the Forever GI Bill, eliminates the provision that veterans have a 15-year window from their last active duty discharge date to use their educational assistance benefits for all new service members.

It also ensures full access to GI Bill benefits for recipients of the Purple Heart, and it eliminates a loophole where reservists who were deployed for disasters and overseas military support under Title 10, Section 12304 of the U.S. Code did not accrue GI Bill benefits.

Both chambers of Congress passed the bill unanimously before members left for the August recess. At a press briefing Wednesday, Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin lauded the bill's enactment.

"1.7 million individuals have already taken advantage of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, and we hope that many more now will," he told reporters. "We have spent more than \$75 billion through the Post 9/11 GI Bill to support veterans and their dependents, and this is another example of bipartisan support that brought us this GI Bill expansion."

House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., introduced the legislation and thanked veterans' groups for their advocacy on the issue.

"Today our commitment to support and care for the men and women who have served our great nation has been reinforced with the signing of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017," Roe said in a statement. "This law would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of every veterans' service organization and the bipartisan cooperation of both chambers of Congress. I'm also grateful to President Trump and Secretary Shulkin for their unfailing commitment to America's heroes."

Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., who helped shepherd the bill through his chamber, also celebrated the law.

"This is a historic day for our nation's veterans," he said. "This bipartisan bill will open doors for the brave men and women who put it all on the line for our freedom."

Mark Lucas, executive director of the Koch brothers-backed Concerned Veterans for America, lauded the bill as "meaningful reform."

"The new GI bill expands veterans' access to education in a fiscally responsible manner, ensuring that the benefit will be available for generations to come," Lucas said. "Many different organizations and elected officials came together to work on this bipartisan bill, and we want to commend Rep. Roe and Student Veterans of America for driving this effort from the beginning."

### **Veterans Affairs News**



## **'Parking Lot' Suicides Roil VA Hospitals**

In a tragic and disturbing trend, veterans are resorting to suicide on the grounds of VA facilities, VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin said.

"As some of you may know, veterans tend to come to a VA -- either drive a car or come to the VA -- and actually suicide on our property," Shulkin said last on August 8, stressing the need for the Department of Veterans Affairs to do more to curb veteran suicides, estimated at 20 daily nationwide.

"There are a number of reasons, not all of which I completely understand," for veterans to choose to end their lives at the VA, he said, "but one of them being they don't want their families to have to discover them."

"They know that if they're discovered at a VA, that we will handle it in an appropriate way and take care of them," Shulkin said in his opening remarks at the VA's annual "Innovation Day" at Georgetown University.

Shulkin, who has made curbing veteran suicides his top clinical priority, did not state how many suicides are occurring at VA

facilities, “but every day I am notified of more and more of these that happen. So we just have to do more, we have to do better, we have to innovate” in seeking out and assisting at-risk veterans.

VA officials also did not put a number on what is known in the veterans’ community as “parking lot suicides.”

Shulkin “was referring to a number of tragic incidents that have been in the news,” a VA spokesman said in an e-mail. “His point was that VA has more work to do when it comes to its suicide prevention efforts.”

## VA staffing new White House VA Hotline Principally with Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced on August 11 that the two-month pilot phase of the new White House VA Hotline that began in June has demonstrated that Veterans calling the hotline respond best when their calls are answered by fellow Veterans and others with first-hand experience on their issues.

As a result, VA announced that it will target highly qualified Veterans to staff the hotline going forward, instead of contracting the service to a third-party vendor, and is hiring additional VA personnel to complete the planned move to a 24-hour operation.

“The message we’ve heard loud and clear is Veterans want to talk to other Veterans to help them solve problems and get VA services,” said VA Secretary David J. Shulkin. “We’re taking steps to answer that call.”

This decision will delay the full-time stand-up of the 24-hour service by two months, to no later than October 15, in order to ensure the hiring and training processes are complete.

Until that time, the hotline’s current pilot program service is available to receive calls from Veterans from 8 am to 5 pm Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

The White House VA Hotline, 1-855-948-2311, is designed to “collect, process and respond to the complaints of individual veterans in a responsive, timely and accountable manner,” according to Department of Veterans Affairs officials.



## VVA Lawsuit Challenges DoD’s Leaking of Personal Information Belonging to Active Duty and Veterans

Vietnam Veterans of America filed a federal lawsuit on August 1, in order to end the Department of Defense’s systematic violation of veterans’ and service members’ privacy rights. DoD operates a website that reveals details pertaining to the military service of millions of veterans and service members to anybody at all, anonymously, for any purpose. The website discloses sensitive details, including exact

dates of active-duty service, future dates of call-up to active duty, and branch and unit of service.

“Veterans and active duty military are disproportionately targeted by scammers and identity thieves,” said John Rowan, President of VVA. “DoD is fueling the problem by leaving personal and private information easily accessible on the internet, and DoD has refused to properly secure this information,” noted Rowan. “We are asking a court to order them to do so.” The case was filed in federal court in Buffalo, N.Y., by Vietnam Veterans of America, the VVA New York State Council, VVA Chapter 77, and VVA member Thomas Barden.

Thomas Barden, a retired Air Force Master Sergeant, was defrauded by scammers who gained his trust through the use of private details accessible on the DoD website. “We expect the military to protect our private information,” said Barden. “The government should not be giving con artists and scammers easy access to information they can use to rip-off veterans like me.” The DoD website allows anybody to search for an individual’s record, simply by inputting a last name and birthdate (or social security number).

“Veterans and service members face a multitude of challenges when they return home. Many veterans want control over who learns details about their service in order to avoid stereotypes, prejudice, or worse,” said Mike Walker, President of VVA Chapter 77, in Tonawanda, NY. “The government is taking that decision out of our hands by operating this unsecured online database.”

“The site, which receives 2.3 billion queries every year, is intended for the exclusive use of banks and other regulated institutions to verify whether an individual is on active duty and, therefore, entitled to certain legal protections, but DoD does not limit access in any way and has no idea how many of those searches are illegitimate,” said Jonathan Manes, supervising attorney at the Civil Liberties and Transparency Clinic of the University at Buffalo School of Law, which represents the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. Plaintiffs are represented by student attorneys Jessica Gill, Arthur Heberle, and Thora Knight of the UB School of Law under the supervision of Assistant Clinical Professor Manes.

## 50 Years Ago

- **September 1** - AC-130A GUNSHIP II SUCCESSFULL IN OPERATIONAL TESTS. A prototype AC-130A Gunship II flies combat missions over the Ho Chi Minh Trail. During these operational tests, the AC-130A destroys thirty-eight trucks of the ninety-four detected by its sensors.
- **September 1** - NORTH VIETNAMESE CROSS DMZ, LAY SIEGE TO CON THIEN. North Vietnamese forces cross the DMZ and lay siege to the U.S. Marine Corps outpost at Con Thien. The adjacent bases of Dong Ha, Camp Carroll, and Cam Lo are also shelled

regularly during this period. The siege is broken 4 October 1967.

- **September 4 - OPERATION SWIFT LAUNCHED.** From September 4 to 15, 1967 in Operation SWIFT, elements of the 1st and 3d Battalions, 5th Marines, engage elements of the North Vietnamese 2d Division northwest of Tam Ky. The objective of the operation is to engage and eliminate enemy forces, while also denying them access to the food from the area's extensive rice cultivation. Operation SWIFT ends on September 15.
- **September 4 - VINCENT R. CAPODANNO, MEDAL OF HONOR.**
- **September 6 - RODNEY MAXWELL DAVIS, MEDAL OF HONOR.**
- **September 15 - VIET CONG INFLICT HEAVY CASUALTIES ON NAVY MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE.** A Viet Cong battalion attacks a Mobile Riverine Force convoy on the Ba Rai creek, a narrow waterway ten kilometers from My Tho in the Mekong Delta. Employing anti-tank rockets and recoilless rifles, the Viet Cong hit 21 boats in the battle, killing seven American servicemen and wounding 123. Approximately 60 percent of the casualties are Navy Sailors from Task Force 117, making it the Navy's most costly riverine action to date. The Viet Cong lose an estimated 79 soldiers.
- **September 19 - NORTH VIETNAMESE BOMBARD CON THIEN, BEGIN WINTER SPRING CAMPAIGN.** From September 19 to 27, 1967, the North Vietnamese launch a massive attack against the Marine battalion at Con Thien. In response, response of artillery, aircraft assaults, and naval rounds against the enemy firing positions. This would be one of the heaviest North Vietnamese artillery bombardments against American troops during the war and is the first phase of the Communist 1967-1968 Winter Spring Campaign that would culminate in the 1968 Tet offensive.
- **September 21 - JEDH COLBY BARKER, MEDAL OF HONOR.**
- **September 25 - 23RD INFANTRY DIVISION (AMERICAL) ACTIVATED.** In September MACV activates the 23d Infantry Division, commonly referred to as the Americal Division, mainly from units already in theater much as its World War II namesake had been created from units already in the Pacific. The division would spend the war fighting in I Corps.

### Membership Renewals

Is your membership renewal about to become due? Please renew today so you can continue to receive the Chapter newsletter, as well as the VVA Veteran! And as you renew, please consider joining the other 182 members who have chosen Life membership for \$100. You must submit a copy of your DD214 to qualify for Life membership.

## Hartford Vet Center



25 Elm Street, Suite A  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Phone: (860)-563-8800  
Fax: (860)-563-8805

We are the people in VA who welcome home war veterans with honor by providing quality readjustment counseling in a caring manner. Vet Centers understand and appreciate Veterans' war experiences while assisting them and their family members toward a successful post-war adjustment in or near their community.

### Printing Donated by Konica Minolta Business Solutions



KONICA MINOLTA

550 Marshall Phelps Road  
Windsor CT 06075  
Email: [printshop@kmb.s.konicaminolta.us](mailto:printshop@kmb.s.konicaminolta.us)



**Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.**  
**Greater Hartford Chapter 120**  
P.O. Box 4136  
Hartford, CT 06145