

## Inside This Issue

*Chapter/State News*  
*Chapter 120 Elections*  
*POW/MIA News*  
*At The Capitol*  
*On The Hill*  
*Veterans Affairs News*  
*Hooah!*  
*50 Years Ago*  
*Chapter 120 Election Rules*

## Meetings

The Chapter 120 membership meeting will be held on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Machinists Union Hall, 357 Main St., East Hartford.

The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, April 26 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 [ctchapter120@aol.com](mailto:ctchapter120@aol.com).

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## Congress passes \$1.3 trillion budget measure



Congress finalized a \$1.3 trillion budget deal early Friday March 23 to stave off another government shutdown threat and give federal agencies their full-year spending allotment after nearly a six-month wait.

The massive omnibus spending plan passed by a 65-32 margin in the Senate just after midnight, about 12 hours after it was approved by the House and less than 24 hours before another partial government shutdown would have begun without the new appropriations.

The budget contains \$185.4 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, a substantial increase over fiscal 2017 spending, and above what mandatory budget caps would have allowed before lawmakers reached a new budget deal in February. This VA budget is nearly a 5 percent increase over fiscal 2017 and nearly a 10 percent increase in discretionary funding, to \$81.5 billion. It's the 17th straight year of increases for the department, which had a total budget of only \$45 billion in fiscal 2001.

Of the total, \$68.8 billion was set aside for medical care priorities, much of it already funded through advanced appropriations in early 2017. Mental health care services sees an increase to \$8.4 billion, while almost \$200 million is set aside for ongoing suicide prevention efforts.

Appropriators set aside \$782 million for the new VA electronic medical record system, which is set to use the same framework as the new Defense Department records. White House officials have touted that work as better aligning military medical care with future veterans' benefits, but the process is expected to take years to complete.

The bill sets aside \$7.3 billion for homeless veterans' services, a concern among advocates after the total number of veterans living in distress rose in 2017. That was the first annual increase since VA officials made the issue a national focus in 2010.

Major and minor construction projects saw a small decrease over fiscal 2017 funding levels, to \$855 million. But another \$2 billion was set aside for infrastructure repair, which lawmakers said should help eliminate the existing backlog in state veterans' home construction applications.

The measure also contains \$71 billion in advance appropriations for fiscal 2019, ensuring that medical operations can continue uninterrupted even if a new budget stalemate emerges this fall.

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## Chapter/State News

### Chapter Elections

As Chapter elections for officers, directors and state council delegates will be held at the April membership meeting on April 5, 2018, we again ask our members to offer their time and enthusiasm in order to continue the good works that Chapter 120 is known for in the veterans' community. We need our members to offer their support, expertise, their ideas and their leadership to guide our organization down the right path to attain our basic goals – and establish new goals for our future. We are asking you, our members, to seriously consider running for these important positions. We need your help – we need your leadership and ideas to guide Chapter 120 for the next two years.

Please contact our Election Committee (Tim Siggia, William Chiodo and Kenneth Lewis) to submit your name for one of these positions. Help our Chapter continue our work to support all veterans and their families.

Positions open for candidacy:

**Officers:** President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

**Board of Directors:** Five positions

**State Council Delegates:** Six positions

**Elections Committee:** Three positions

Election Rules are posted at the end of this newsletter.

### Job Fairs for Veterans

#### CT DOL Heroes 4 Hire Career Fair

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Rentschler Field, East Hartford CT

#### MCC Regional Job Fair

Friday, April 6, 2018

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Manchester Community College, Manchester CT

### Spring Fling 2018 to Benefit Relay for Life

Spring Fling 2018 to Benefit Relay for Life – Team Avenging Angel to be held at the Machinist Union Hall (357 Main St., East Hartford CT) April 21, 2018, 8pm – midnight

### Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony

Sponsored by the Norwich Area Veterans Council

**Date:** Saturday, April 28, 2018

**Start time:** 1:00 PM

**Location:** Chelsea Parade across from Norwich Free Academy, 305 Broadway, Norwich CT 06360

Refreshments after the ceremony at Richard E. Hourigan VFW Post 594  
30 Connecticut Ave. Norwich CT.

Inclement Weather: The event will be held at Richard E. Hourigan VFW Post 594  
30 Connecticut Ave. Norwich CT, starting at 1:00 PM

All members of VVA Chapters are invited to attend. If anyone needs more info please contact John Waggoner at Cell: 860-608-0472.

### Birthday Wishes

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

*Robert Bagge*

*Stephen Clark*

*Steven Harris*

*William V. Loder*

*Nathaniel Milliner*

*William J. Neligon*

*John F. Panciera*

*Gerald A. Sweeney*

*Robert J. Vanderhoff Jr.*

*Arthur Bagnall*

*James J. Gavin*

*Walter Korfel*

*Peter Mazzadra*

*David R. Motowidlak*

*John J. Orvis*

*Bruce E. Raccio*

*C. Daniel Thayer, Jr.*

### Happy Birthday!

## Veterans with PTSD, Less-Than-Honorable Discharge Allege Bias and File Federal Lawsuit against Navy



A marine veteran of the 2003 invasion of Iraq filed a federal class-action lawsuit against the Navy in federal court in New Haven on Friday, alleging that the Navy review board has denied his discharge claim and those of other veterans because of their post-traumatic stress disorders and other traumatic mental health issues.

“The American public needs to know that hundreds of thousands of military veterans with service connected PTSD and [traumatic brain injuries] are being denied support and VA resources because of an unfair discharge status,” Tyson Manker said in a statement about his lawsuit.

Manker, who fought in the Iraqi invasion and is now an attorney living in Illinois, is joined in the lawsuit by the National Veterans Council for Legal Redress, a Connecticut-based organization whose members include marines and other veterans with less-than-honorable discharges. The plaintiffs are being counseled by the Yale Law School Veterans Legal Services Clinic.

According to a news release provided by the clinic, nearly a third of the more than 2 million Americans who have served in either Iraq or Afghanistan suffer from PTSD and related mental-health conditions. The less-than-honorable discharges received are often attributable to those mental health issues, the release said.

When the veterans apply for a change to their discharge characterization to the Naval Discharge Review Board, which handles applications from former sailors and Marines, “the veterans are unlawfully denied without the benefit of Department of Defense policies meant to ease the process,” the news release said.

“The Navy is defying the Department of Defense, Congress, and the Constitution in a way that the other Boards are not,” said Samantha Peltz, a law student intern in the Yale Veterans Legal Services Clinic. “In 2017, the Army and Air Force Discharge Review Boards granted approximately 51 percent of discharge upgrade applications involving PTSD, while the NDRB granted a mere 16 percent of applications during the same period. The disparity is staggering.”

In Connecticut, about 800 veterans have other-than-honorable discharge, according to a report released last month titled “A Time to Heal: State Benefits for Connecticut Veterans with Bad Paper.”

The other-than-honorable discharge limits the services to which Connecticut have access at the state’s veterans’ home in Rocky Hill. The veterans also don’t qualify for municipal property tax exemptions, can’t access program funds or tuition waivers for

the state universities or community colleges or apply for funeral and burial assistance, and they are barred from more than a dozen other state benefits and programs, according to the report, which was prepared by the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School and for the Connecticut chapter of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

The report’s purpose was to propose legislation to Connecticut lawmakers that would expand veteran benefits to those who have other-than-honorable discharges in the state. A bill on their proposal, SB284, was raised by the veteran’s affairs committee last month and a public hearing on the proposed legislation was held on March 6.

“Systemic failures of the military departments have led to widespread legal rights violations of our most vulnerable men and women in uniform, myself included. It is a national disgrace,” Manker said. “By taking this action with the courts we intend to restore the rule of law along with honor for thousands of patriots who were treated so poorly by the nation they served.”

### Receive “The Connection” by E-Mail

The monthly Chapter 120 newsletter, The Connection, is available by e-mail. Currently, 98 members receive the newsletter by e-mail, saving the Chapter over \$600 in postal fees annually. The newsletter is available in Adobe format (.pdf), attached to your e-mail. If you wish to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please e-mail the newsletter editor at [ctchapter120@aol.com](mailto:ctchapter120@aol.com)

### POW/MIA News



## POW/MIA Director Concludes First Southeast Asia Oversight Visit

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Director Kelly McKeague completed his first oversight visit to Southeast Asia last week to assess the U.S.

Government’s efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting for

Americans still missing from the Vietnam War. McKeague, a retired U.S. Air Force Major General, who was appointed to the DPAA position in September 2017, traveled to the region March 9 - 21.

McKeague visited DPAA detachments in Bangkok, Thailand; Vientiane, Laos; and Hanoi, Vietnam; and met with senior U.S. officials in each country as well as senior host nation counterparts and a visiting Veterans of Foreign Wars delegation. In Phnom Penh, Cambodia, he met with the U.S. Ambassador and had an informal meeting with Cambodian counterparts.

Throughout the trip, McKeague was impressed by the staunch support of the respective U.S. Ambassadors and Country Teams,

as well as the increasing commitment and cooperation of the host nations. “Our U.S. Ambassadors recognize DPAA’s noble mission being foundational to the United States’ expanding bilateral relationships in Vietnam and Laos,” he said. “I also saw firsthand the initiatives that have been implemented in Vietnam and Laos to improve and expand the pace and scope of our operations there.”

In Vietnam, McKeague visited a DPAA recovery team excavating a site in Quang Ngai Province where a Marine pilot remains unaccounted-for. He remarked, “The talent and dedication of the military and civilian professionals on our recovery team is inspiring. It was also noteworthy to see the level of rapport and support provided by our Vietnamese partners. We could not perform this mission without the cooperation of the Vietnamese government and people, and for that, I am very grateful.”

“We continue to make progress in accounting for our missing from the Vietnam War, but much work remains to be accomplished and time is our enemy. As such, we and our host nation partners are dedicated to diligently seeking opportunities to accelerate our joint endeavors. The missing we search for, and their families who await answers, deserve no less,” McKeague said.

1,600 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

“DPAA’s motto is ‘Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise.’ It speaks to our moral imperative, even a sacred obligation, to steadfastly pursue the fullest possible accounting of our missing from past conflicts. In doing so, we also send a message to all who serve today – should they make the ultimate sacrifice, the U.S. Government will tirelessly endeavor to bring them home,” said McKeague.

**At The Capitol**



**VA Committee reports out bills**

The Connecticut General Assembly VA Committee reported out twenty-eight bills for floor consideration in March. Thirty-two bills were reported out in the previous year's session.

One specific bill, SB 289, is of significant importance to the CT Department of Veterans Affairs' Healthcare Center. This bill reinstates \$2 million in order to maintain the Sgt. John L. Levitow Veterans Healthcare Center as a licensed Chronic Disease Hospital.

Without passage of this bill, current Connecticut veterans as well as future veterans in need of this special care will suffer. If the \$2 million is not reinstated into the FY2019 budget, the Sgt. John L. Levitow Veterans Healthcare Center would be converted to a nursing home. The State would lose millions of dollars in federal reimbursement as a result. Instead of saving \$2

million as the current FY19 budget suggests, the State will actually lose as much as \$8 million in federal reimbursements.

We ask that you contact your State Representative and State Senator and request that they support and pass this important bill.



Chapter 120 members testified at the CT VA Committee hearing held on March 6, 2018. Co-Chair of the VA Committee, Senator Mae Flexer, is on the left.

**On The Hill**



*From The New London Day*

**A win for bad paper veterans tucked into major federal spending package**

Published March 22, 2018

Tucked into the massive federal spending package is a proposal worked on by Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., to allow service members separated from the military for misconduct to access behavioral and mental health services through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The \$1.3 trillion spending package, which was signed into law by President Trump on March 23, funds the government through Sept. 30, and covers a variety of budget areas, from defense to opioids, and other legislative priorities.

Murphy, along with U.S. Sens. Jon Tester, D-Mont., and Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, introduced legislation last year to allow former service members who served in combat and received an other than honorable discharge to seek mental and behavioral health care through the VA, provided they served 100 days on active duty. It also applies to veterans with other than honorable discharges who were sexually assaulted. U.S. Reps. Beto O'Rourke, D-Texas, and Mike Bost, R-Ill., introduced the measure in the House. It was included in the larger spending package as part of negotiations among lawmakers leading up to its unveiling.

The U.S. military discharges more than 20,000 vets annually with one of five discharge statuses ranging from honorable to dishonorable. Other-Than-Honorable discharge, commonly referred to as "bad paper," is classified as an administrative discharge, and makes veterans ineligible for most VA benefits. Supporters of the proposal argue that denying this group of veterans' access to the VA cuts them off from vital services that could help them get better.

"People in Connecticut believe that the men and women who risk their lives for our country and suffer the wounds of war should not be shut out of the VA system and denied the care they need," Murphy said in a prepared statement.

The issue has gained national attention in recent years as veterans have traveled to Capitol Hill to explain how they were kicked out of the military due to conduct later attributed to mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

It is a big win for the veterans who have been advocating for this nationally, and for a group of post-9/11 veterans in Connecticut who are pushing for a similar proposal in the state General Assembly.

Steve Kennedy, a former Army infantryman who heads the Connecticut chapter of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said federal approval would make a stronger case for passing Senate Bill 284, which would provide state veteran benefits to bad paper veterans.

"It sends a strong message when even the federal VA recognizes that OTH discharges don't properly account for mental health conditions and shouldn't be a basis for summarily disqualifying veterans from services," Kennedy said by email.

Kennedy, who received a general discharge, filed a class-action lawsuit against the Army arguing the service has not abided by a Pentagon policy to make it easier for veterans with PTSD to upgrade their discharge status.

Murphy's proposal would affect between 800 and 1,000 Connecticut veterans, according to an estimate from Yale University's Veterans Legal Services Clinic, which has become nationally prominent for its work helping veterans upgrade their discharge statuses.

A May 2017 report from the Government Accountability Office found that 62 percent of service members separated for misconduct from fiscal years 2011 to 2015 had been diagnosed with PTSD, a traumatic brain injury "or certain other conditions that could be associated with misconduct" at least two years before being discharged. Of those, 23 percent received Other-Than-Honorable discharges.



## Veterans Affairs News



### VA Defies Court Orders to Release Documents Sought by Poisoned Veterans

On February 27, 2018, Judge Victor A. Bolden of the U.S. District Court of Connecticut

ordered the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to show cause why it should not be held in contempt because of its "repeated failure to comply" with court orders requiring documents to be handed over in a timely manner.

For over two years, the VA has stonewalled veterans seeking documents about its handling of benefits for the hundreds of thousands of Marines and sailors who unknowingly drank, cooked with, and bathed in contaminated water that supplied Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune for the latter part of the 20th century, according to students from the Veterans Legal Services Clinic, who are representing veterans affected in the case.

Judge Bolden required that the order be served on VA Secretary David Shulkin to ensure "that this matter is raised to the highest levels within the VA."

The Few, The Proud, The Forgotten; Vietnam Veterans of America; and the Connecticut State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America first requested records under the Freedom of Information Act on December 7, 2015. The three veterans' advocacy groups filed suit in April 2016 after the VA did not respond. Over the course of the two-year litigation, the VA has failed "to produce information as promised on July 10, 2017, July 24, 2017, October 20, 2017, and January 12, 2018," wrote Judge Bolden in his order.

Between 1953 and 1987, nearly one million Marines, sailors, civilian employees, and military family members aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune were exposed to dangerous toxins through the water on the base in one of the worst toxic contamination events in U.S. history, according to the lawsuit. The toxic water caused serious illnesses, including bladder cancer, leukemia, kidney cancer, and liver cancer. Veterans are entitled to benefits for disabilities resulting from or exacerbated by their military service, including those caused by toxic exposure, but the VA has denied the overwhelming majority of disability claims from Camp Lejeune veterans.

Since 2012, the VA has made it even more difficult for affected Marine veterans to obtain the benefits they rightfully deserve, by quietly requiring Camp Lejeune veterans' claims to be evaluated by a so-called "Subject Matter Expert" (SME). Little is known about how this program operates or how the SMEs are chosen, except that the grant rate for Camp Lejeune related claims dropped from 25% to 8% and that some veterans were denied based on opinions plagiarized from Wikipedia, according to the clinic. Seeking answers, plaintiffs asked for records about the secretive Camp Lejeune Subject Matter Expert program.

Mike Partain, Co-Founder of The Few, The Proud, The Forgotten, a group dedicated to protecting the rights of Marine veterans, civilian employees, and families who were exposed to the toxic water, said, “After all this foot dragging, you have to wonder just what is behind the curtain we are attempting to draw back for all to see. Veterans are dying while we wait for answers.”

VVA National President John Rowan noted, “This is yet another instance of the Executive branch strategy regarding any and all toxic wounds and exposures to toxins through the last 8 Presidents: Delay, deny, until they all die.

This must end now, for the sake of veterans and their families of all generations.”

“The VA’s disrespect for the law and these veterans is unacceptable, said Shikha Garg, a law student intern in the Yale Veterans Legal Services Clinic. “Not only are these veterans—who were poisoned by their own government—entitled to records under the Freedom of Information Act, they are owed answers by any standard of decency. It is traumatic enough to be denied benefits for their own illnesses, but many of these veterans also lost loved ones or saw their children permanently disabled by the drinking water.”

Plaintiffs in this case are represented by law student interns Shikha Garg, Jacob Gelman, Corey Meyer, and Helen White and supervising attorney Aaron Wenzloff of the Yale Law School Veterans Legal Services Clinic. The clinic, founded in the fall of 2010, represents individual veterans and veterans’ organizations on a range of matters.

### **Trump nominates former Army captain as new top benefits official for VA**

After a nearly two-and-a-half-year wait, the Veterans Benefits Administration is poised to get a new permanent leader.



Paul Lawrence

President Donald Trump on Wednesday nominated Army veteran Paul Lawrence as the next under secretary of Veterans Affairs for benefits, a post that has been manned by a series of acting officials since Allison Hickey stepped down from the job in October 2015.

Lawrence is currently a vice president at Kaiser Associates, an international consulting firm, where he specializes in organizational efficiency. For the last three decades he has worked in a variety of accounting firms in roles focused on federal government practices and effectiveness.

He is also an Army Airborne School graduate who left the service at the rank of captain.

Lawrence’s nomination was hinted at by VA Secretary David Shulkin last month during congressional testimony, when asked about high-profile positions vacant in his administration.

The nomination comes amid scandal and turmoil at VA, following the release of a critical inspector general’s report alleging multiple improprieties related to a overseas trip last July. Since then, Shulkin has spoken out about internal strife within the department, indicating that high-level firings for insubordination could be coming soon.

How long Lawrence’s confirmation process may take is unclear. Democrats in the Senate have slowed votes on nominees over unrelated political battles with Republicans, drawing criticism from the majority party and the White House.

But lawmakers from both sides have also noted the slow pace of nominations from Trump’s administration as a major reason why many senior agency posts remain unfilled.

In 2016, Lawrence co-authored a report for Kaiser Associates titled “The Onboarding of New Political Appointees” in which the firm noted a lack of “organized, sustained efforts” to help new federal nominees better begin their new roles in government.

If confirmed, he’ll take over that responsibility for an agency of nearly 30,000 employees charged with handling an array of veterans’ benefits, including disability payouts and education funds.

### **Hooah! Where Did The Term Come From?**



“Hooah!” You can hear it echoing from the hallowed halls of Fort Benning’s Infantry Center to the ranges at Fort Lewis. It is uttered at award ceremonies, bellowed from formations, and repeated before, during and after training missions. You can hear it shouted by Air Force Security Forces, Para-rescue, and Combat Controllers. The word HOO-YAH is thundered out by Navy SEALs, Navy Divers, and Navy EOD, and by United States Marines who pronounce their motivational cheer as “OohRah!” All are said to be derivations of each other, but it appears the term “Hooah” came first.

So, where do the terms originate? The simple answer is that nobody knows, although there are dozens of theories. In fact, nobody can even agree on the correct spelling of these widely used military “words.” No matter how one might spell the word – with or without a hyphen, a U instead of two O’s, and so on – the word is still an expression of high morale, strength, and confidence. And, when powered by an overwhelmingly proud,

and usually loud, tone of voice, “hooah / hooyah / oohrah” seems to stomp out any possibility of being bound by the written word.

“It’s an affirmation that I fully agree with and support the idea or intent expressed by the person to whom I make that response,” said Maj. Gen. F.A. Gorden, Military District of Washington commander. “It applies not only to the letter of what was said but to the spirit of what was said.” Former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan has his interpretation. “I don’t know how exactly to spell it, but I know what it means,” Sullivan said. “It means we have broken the mold. We are battle focused. Hooah says – “Look at me. I’m a warrior. I’m ready. Sergeants trained me to standard. I serve America every day, all the way.”

One theory is that the word originated with the Second Dragoons in Florida as “hough” in 1841. In an attempt to end the war with the Seminoles, a meeting was arranged with the Indian Chief Coacoochee. After the meeting, there was a banquet. Garrison officers made a variety of toasts, including “Here’s to luck” and “The old grudge” before drinking. Coacoochee asked Gopher John, an interpreter, the meaning of the officers’ toasts. Gopher John responded, “It means, How d’ye do.” The chief then lifted his cup above his head and exclaimed in a deep, guttural voice, “hough.”

Another theory is that during the Vietnam War many American soldiers used Vietnamese and Vietnamese-French expressions interchangeably with English. One widely used term was the Vietnamese word for “yes,” which is pronounced “u-ah.” When assigned a task or asked a question, soldiers would often answer with “u-ah.” This term – used for many years after the war by many soldiers, is easily changed to “hooah.”

There are dozens of stories circulating about the etymology of hooah. A popular story among Army Rangers is the following account:

On D-Day, 1944, on Omaha Beach, near the sea cliffs at Point Du Hoc, General Cota, the 29th Division Assistant Division Commander, jogged down the beach toward a group of Rangers from the 2nd Ranger Battalion, and asked, “Where’s your commanding officer?” They pointed him out and said, “Down there, sir.” General Cota reportedly followed their direction and, on his way down the beach, said, “Lead the way, Rangers!” The Rangers from the 2nd Battalion reportedly said, “WHO, US?” General Cota thought he heard them say “HOOAH!” He was so impressed with their cool and calm demeanor, not to mention their cool term, hooah, he decided to make it a household name.

Nobody knows why the United States Marines pronounce the word, “OohRah!” When and where did it start? Is it related to similar cries now in use by other military services? Nobody knows for sure. Most everybody has an opinion, but there is no single theory that has been shown to be fact. MSgt Jim Meade (USAF Retired) speculates that The Marine version of “Hooah” (OoRah) may have originated in Australia. “Many Marines were medevaced down here [Australia] during the Pacific island

battles of WWII and may have picked it up then. “OoRah” is an Aussie colloquialism for Farewell or Until Then.”

A couple of the more popular “opinions” on this include that “OohRah” comes from either (take your pick) a Turkish or a Russian battle cry, and was somehow adopted by U.S. Marines. Many lean in the direction that it may have originated with the 1956 film, *The DI*, starring Jack Webb as T/Sgt Jim Moore, who, in that movie, commands his recruit platoon, “Let me hear you ROAR, tigers!” Some say the term “HOOAH” is another way of spelling H.U.A. – which is an acronym for Heard, Understood, and Acknowledged. But the term can definitely be traced back to the Revolutionary War and into the Civil War and the words, “Hurrah”, “Hooray”, and even “Hoosah”. Different variations likely occurred with dialects of the military units from different regions of the South and North as well as from foreign advisers (German / French) during the years prior to the Revolutionary War.

## 50 Years Ago

**April 8** - MARINES HELP BREAK SIEGE WITH OPERATION PEGASUS. The 1st Cavalry Division, South Vietnamese airborne troops, and U.S. Marine Corps units launch Operation PEGASUS to help break the siege of Khe Sanh. 1st Cavalry Division helicopters are heavily involved. A total of 17 U.S. and four South Vietnamese battalions conduct the assault.  
**April 25** - JAMES M. SPRAYBERRY, MEDAL OF HONOR.  
**April 26** - MILTON A. LEE, MEDAL OF HONOR.  
**April 30** - JAY R. VARGAS, MEDAL OF HONOR.

## Chapter 120 Election Rules

*Revised November 2, 2006*

### Section 1. Annual Elections

- A. The Chapter officers will be elected on even numbered years at the April meeting and will serve a two (2) year term in office. They are the following: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- B. The Board of Directors will be elected on even numbered years at the April meeting and will serve a two (2) year term of office.
- C. The State Council Delegates will be elected on even numbered years at the April meeting and will serve a two (2) year term of office.
- D. The Delegates to the National Convention will be elected on odd numbered years at the April meeting and will serve a two (2) year term in office.
- E. The three (3) member Nominating Committee will be elected at the April meeting and will serve a one (1) year term.

### Section 2. Candidates

- A. Candidates must have been a member for a minimum of fifteen (15) days prior to the election.
- B. Candidates must have on file with the Chapter, or present to the Nominating Committee their DD-214, or other proof of qualification for membership.

- C. Candidates may be nominated from the floor on the night of the election. Candidates must be present to accept the nomination or have submitted a letter of intent to the Nominating Committee.
- D. Candidates will be allowed space in the newsletter to campaign but not to defame or slander the other candidates. Space allowable will be at the discretion of the Newsletter Editor.
- E. Candidates will be allowed five (5) minutes to speak at the April meeting if desired.
- F. Candidates may use the membership list for a mailing pursuant to the Chapter rules and Federal laws governing the membership list.

**Section 3. Voters**

- A. To be eligible to vote, you must have been a member for fifteen (15) days prior to the election. This would include new members or reinstated members that are not paid up for the prior year.
- B. Voting members must have on file with the Chapter, or present to the Nominating Committee, their DD-214 or proof of qualification for membership.
- C. Voting members must have paid their dues for the current fiscal year. Membership may be renewed the night of the election, but must be paid prior to casting their vote.

**Section 4. Election Procedures**

- A. The voting period will be from the close of nominations until 8:00 PM.
- B. The quorum required to hold the election should be 10 members.
- C. A candidate can request a recount of the ballots for his or her office if the margin between the candidates running for that office is 10% or less based on the number of total votes cast.
- D. The ballots will be kept for one (1) year in a sealed envelope signed by the Nominating Committee or their appointees.
- E. Results will be announced the night of the election.
- F. If a Nominating Committee member is running for an elected position, they shall appoint a volunteer vote counter from the floor.
- G. The vote will be taken by a secret paper ballot.

**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 May newsletter is 20 April 2018. Due to space availability, the editor reserves the right to include or not include photos for a given month.

**Hartford Vet Center**



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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.

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