

CONNECTION



Connecticut Chapter 120

Greater Hartford

Over 34 Years of Service to Veterans

July/August 2018

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Inside This Issue

Chapter/State News

POW/MIA News

On The Hill

Veterans Affairs News

A History of Independence Day

50 Years Ago

Helping Hands for Our Veterans

VVA Applauds House Passage of Blue Water Navy Act; Calls on Senate to Follow Suit ASAP



“VVA applauds the passage of H.R. 299, The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, and we call on the Senate to delay no further and pass the companion bill, S.422, as amended in the House. For far too many years, despite the overwhelming support of House members on both sides of the aisle, Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans have been thwarted in their quest to be accorded the same service-connected

healthcare and benefits as their fellow ‘boots-on-the-ground Vietnam veterans,’ ” said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America.

“Now, after today’s vote on H.R. 299, these ‘forgotten’ sailors and Marines can see the light at the end of their tunnel growing bright for the first time in a long while,” said Rowan. This bill, introduced by Rep. David Valadao (R-CA), would restore eligibility for VA healthcare and disability compensation for some 90,000 Blue Water Navy veterans, ensuring that those who served in the Navy off the coast of Vietnam will receive the medical treatment and compensation due to their exposure to Agent Orange.

“We have long maintained that the service of sailors and other personnel in Yankee and Dixie Stations should be equated with the service of boots-on-the-ground troops in Vietnam,” said Rowan. “Now the ball is in the Senate’s court, where the passage of this legislation remains in doubt. Our nation can no longer ignore the demonstrated need of thousands of veterans who served with honor and who are suffering from the same health conditions as their in-country comrades.

“Caring for veterans is part of the continuing cost of the national defense,” Rowan noted. “Regrettably, Congress has fallen down on its responsibility to these veterans and their families. Now, however, with the House in overwhelming endorsement of the Blue Water Navy Act, it’s time for the Senate to follow their lead. There can be no excuse for them not to.”

For more information about the House passage of HR 299, see “House passes benefits fix for ailing ‘blue water’ veterans, now awaits Senate’s move” in this newsletter.

Meetings

The Chapter 120 membership meeting will be held on Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Machinists Union Hall, 357 Main St., East Hartford.

The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, August 30 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.

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Norwich (Area Code 860)	887-1755
Danbury (Area Code 203)	790-4000
All Telephone Numbers are Area Code 860 unless otherwise noted	

Birthday Wishes

Birthday wishes go to our members born in July and August. May you have many more!

July

*Frederick E. Arnold
Brian R. Brady
William D. Chiodo
Peter M. Heath
Carlton A. Platt III
Manuel P. Teixeira
Robert D. Venti*

*Glenn Beaulieu
Dwight Burgess
Hugo M. Ciaffaglione
Ken Lewis
Eric J. Remkiewicz
James S. Tierney
Harry E. Walters*

*Mary Beaulieu
Gary Chappell
Barry Dubofsky
Peter Lund
John H. Siemer
Geraldine O. Traynham
Charles R. Williams*

August

*Paul Blow
William Cancelli
Craig J. DuPrey
Edward Keany
Philip Morneault
Stephen Robillard
Kenneth Seymour
Joseph S. Wilusz*

*Tom Bothur
Frederick Dellaripa
Linda A. Dusek-Ravenell
Richard E. Lee Jr.
Tim L. Oslund
James Scanlon
Daniel C. Thurston
James Wisner*

*Wayne B. Burgess
Glenda A. Doughtie
John C. Honor Jr.
Kenneth W. Mader
Philip Petricca
Werner Seidler
Gary E. Waterhouse*

Chapter/State News

South Windsor Veterans in the Park

July 15, 2018, 11:00am • FREE

Celebrate Veterans at Veterans Memorial Park, 575 Pleasant Valley Road, South Windsor, CT

Veterans and families enjoy FREE and exclusive early admission (11:00 a.m.). Veterans are invited for the day and benefit from a beautiful park, pool, and free refreshments while supplies last. Must show military ID.

Public Hearing on Victory Gardens Expansion

The Department of Veterans Affairs will host a hearing on July 18 at 2pm to discuss VA's proposed plan to expand the Victory Gardens community located on the grounds of the VA Connecticut Healthcare System Newington campus, 555 Willard Avenue. The meeting will be in the Bldg. 1, 4th floor conference room.

The plan would expand affordable housing opportunities for primarily homeless and at-risk veterans on a priority basis within the existing Victory Gardens community. VA is seeking comments from veterans and other interested parties.

The public is encouraged to submit comments on the proposed enhanced-use lease project in writing prior to the hearing to:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Asset Enterprise Management (044C)
810 Vermont Avenue, Room 535 G
Washington, D.C. 20420

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 September 2018 newsletter is 24 August 2017. Due to space availability, the editor reserves the right to include or not include photos for a given month.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE U.S. DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Newington, Connecticut, Enhanced-Use Lease (EUL)

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in accordance with 38 U.S.C. Section 8161, et seq., hereby provides notice of a public hearing to present VA’s proposed concept plans of expanding affordable housing opportunities for primarily homeless and at risk Veterans on a priority basis through the addition of approximately thirty five (35) permanent supportive housing units within the Victory Gardens (existing EUL Lessee) community. VA would like to elicit comments from Veterans and other interested parties regarding plans to amend an existing EUL and the possible effects thereof on Veteran services in the community, VA programs, and local commerce.

HEARING DATE AND TIME:
Wednesday July 18, 2018, at 2:00 PM

HEARING LOCATION:
Newington Campus, VA Connecticut
Building 1, 4th Floor Conference Room
555 Willard Avenue
Newington, CT 06111

IDENTIFICATION OF PROPERTY TO BE LEASED:
The Newington VAMC is located on Willard Avenue, Newington, CT 06111. The campus consists of approximately 49 acres. The EUL property on the Newington campus consists of approximately 10 acres of land. VA is now proposing to lease three additional vacant buildings (No. 6, 7, and 8) and the underlying approximately 2.5 acres of property for the term of the original lease executed in 2011. Such land is located on the southeast portion of the campus, and is encircled by Victory Way.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED USE OF THE PROPERTY:
The proposed use of the property is to provide additional permanent supportive housing units for eligible Veterans on a priority basis by expanding an existing EUL with a previously competitively-selected developer. This project would improve the quality of life for homeless Veterans by providing housing stability and ready access to VA services at the VAMC. It would also benefit VA by reducing its operational costs at the Newington VAMC. Victory Gardens Housing, LLC (Lessee) is to finance, design, remediate, construct, renovate, restore, operate, and maintain approximately thirty-five (35) additional permanent supportive housing units with sufficient number of parking spaces that will become part of the adjacent Victory Gardens EUL Veterans Future use of the property must be compatible with the proposed site and surrounding environment. Improvements will be subject to local building codes, VA requirements, as well as state and federal environmental laws.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED LEASE:
The EUL between VA and Lessee was executed on December 27, 2011 and amended on September 7, 2012. Proposed Amendment #2 would add approximately thirty-five (35)

additional permanent supportive housing units and 2.5 acres of VA land to the adjacent Victory Gardens community. The subject land area and Buildings 6, 7, and 8 are physically encompassed by Lessee’s EUL boundary. Lessee would be awarded the project pursuant to 38 U.S.C. Section 8162. Lessee is to finance, design, remediate, construct, renovate, restore, operate, and maintain permanent supportive housing units on the property as part of Lessee’s greater supportive housing community. In exchange for the EUL, the Lessee will be required to provide VA with rent and/or in-kind consideration. Such in-kind consideration likely would include priority placement for Veterans seeking occupancy into the housing units, and perhaps related services to Veterans. At the end of the EUL term, the underlying leasehold interest and all related improvements will revert to VA.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and are encouraged to submit comments on the proposed enhanced-use lease project in writing prior to the hearing to:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Asset Enterprise Management (044C)
810 Vermont Avenue, Room 535 G
Washington, D.C. 20420



Victory Gardens, Newington CT

POW/MIA News



From Associated Press

US prepping to receive war dead remains from North Korea

The American military command in South Korea is preparing for the North Koreans to turn over the remains of an unknown number of U.S. or allied service members who have been missing since the Korean War, U.S.

officials said Tuesday June 19.

Officials say the timing of a ceremony is uncertain, but could be very soon. The officials weren’t authorized to discuss the preparations before an official announcement so spoke on condition of anonymity.

The remains are believed to be some or all of the more than 200 that the North Koreans have had for some time. But the precise number and the identities — including whether they are U.S. or allied service members — won’t be known until the remains are tested.

President Donald Trump raised the likelihood of the repatriation of remains after his summit meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. At the time Trump said, “We’re getting the remains, and nobody thought that was possible.”

The Defense Department, State Department and White House declined to discuss the latest development. The Pentagon would only say that an interagency effort is underway and that Trump’s agreement with Kim last week cleared the way for the planning for the return of remains.

The transfer of remains is usually done in a somber, formal ceremony, and that is what officials said is being planned. It also wasn’t clear where the ceremony would take place, but it may be at the demilitarized zone on the border between North and South Korea.

On The Hill



House passes benefits fix for ailing ‘blue water’ veterans, now awaits Senate’s move

On Monday June 25, House lawmakers advanced plans to extend disability benefits for nearly 90,000 “blue water” veterans exposed to toxic chemicals during the Vietnam War but until now denied compensation for that danger.

The move was hailed as a major breakthrough by veterans’ advocates, but it will likely take several months before the Senate moves on the same plan and officially starts the process of getting

payouts to those elderly veterans.

The House approved the plan by a vote of 382-0. It now heads to the upper chamber, where Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., has called the issue a top priority for the remainder of the year.

However, that committee must first tackle the confirmation of VA Secretary Nominee Robert Wilkie, a process that started with a hearing on Wednesday June 27. That work will delay hearings on the new benefits bill for at least a few weeks, leaving no clear timetable on when the legislation may be completed.

On Monday, bill sponsor Rep. David Valadao, R-Calif., called the House vote long overdue.

“Every day, thousands of brave veterans who served in Vietnam fight the health effects of Agent Orange,” he said. “Many are in pain and suffering. It is far past time we give them the comfort and care they deserve.”

Under current department regulations, Vietnam veterans with rare cancers and other illnesses can receive medical care from VA but are not always guaranteed disability benefits.

Troops who served on the ground in Vietnam or patrolled inland rivers during the war are assumed to have been working with or near Agent Orange, and are given special status when filing disability benefits claims to speed up the process.

But so-called “blue water” veterans — who served on ships off the coast of Vietnam — still need to prove direct exposure to Agent Orange for their illnesses to be labeled as service-connected. In many cases that’s impossible, since scientific evidence from the ships was never collected.

Lawmakers in recent years pushed to fix the oversight and mandate the special status for sailors who served off the coast. But they have also struggled with how to cover the costs.

Last month, lawmakers on the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee reached a compromise to raise that \$1.1 billion through a new fee on department-backed home loans.

It’s expected to cost a typical veteran homeowner about \$350 over 10 years, but only about 60 percent of borrowers will be required to pay for it. Most veterans with a disability rating who use the home loan program will be exempt.

House Veterans’ Affairs Committee member Mark Takano, D-Calif., called that a fair solution because “it does not cut benefits for one group of veterans to pay for the benefits of others.” VA home loans are a voluntary program.

The House-passed bill also extends presumptive exposure status to veterans who served in the Korean Peninsula demilitarized zone beginning in September 1967 and lasting until August 1971, the same end date for the Vietnam War.

And the measure makes several additional changes to the VA home loan program, including eliminating the cap on loans department officials can offer.

VA Nominee Promises to Protect Against Privatization, Boost Pay for Some Employees



Robert Wilkie

President Trump’s third nominee to serve as head of the Veterans Affairs Department faced a relatively smooth confirmation hearing on Wednesday June 27, with lawmakers on both sides demonstrating little interest in blocking his appointment.

Robert Wilkie, who served as acting VA secretary after President Trump fired David Shulkin earlier this year (until Wilkie was nominated to fill the

position permanently), easily brushed aside the few potentially difficult questions lobbed his way. In particular, Wilkie assuaged various concerns by stating he has no interest in

privatizing the department, promising to fill vacancies throughout VA, and knocking down reports questioning his commitment to diversity and antidiscrimination efforts.

Wilkie was nominated to the position after Trump's initial replacement for Shulkin, Ronny Jackson, was forced to withdraw when questions surfaced about his management experience and his record as a White House physician. Trump nominated and the Senate confirmed Wilkie last year to serve as the Defense Department's undersecretary for personnel and readiness. Democrats on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee expressed their approval for the nominee throughout the hearing, saying they expect him to sail through the confirmation process.

"It's really important we have a strong leader," said Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., the top Democrat on the panel. "You have a lot of challenges in front of you and I would just say that I think you've got the tools to do the job."

Wilkie said his top priorities as secretary will be to improve access to care by implementing a recently signed law to ease veterans' access to private sector care on the government's dime, reduce the claims backlog, reform business systems such as human resources and improve the culture of VA to offer "world-class customer service." Despite the recent passage of the MISSION Act, Wilkie said he has no interest in broader efforts to eliminate the government's role in providing care and services to veterans.

"My commitment to you is I will oppose efforts to privatize the VA," Wilkie said after facing questions from Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.

Wilkie acknowledged the law was a "radical change," and promised to move quickly to find private sector partners to create a "community network" to supplement the department's 1,200 VA medical facilities. Still, he pledged to keep VA central to any care veterans receive. The department's biggest challenge, he said, is getting veterans in the door. He added he was not interested in taking a "blunderbuss approach" on filling vacancies at VA, saying he would focus on key priorities such as primary care clinicians, mental health professionals and women's health specialists.

The nominee also promised to boost pay rates for low-ranking VA employees to address turnover.

"It is incumbent upon the secretary of the VA to have long discussions with the Office of Personnel Management to make sure that the secretary and those that work for him have the ability to adjust pay scales so that people who are there at the very ground level treat him respectfully and stay in that job and learn what it means to talk to veterans," Wilkie said.

The secretary-designate promised to stand up to outside groups and Trump if they advocate policies not in veterans' best interests. He also broke with the current VA acting secretary, Peter O'Rourke, in saying the department's inspector general must maintain independence and is not a subordinate of the secretary.

A few senators pressed Wilkie on a recent Washington Post report noting his work for a former senator who faced frequent accusations of racism, his participation in ceremonies honoring the confederate flag, his advocacy against gender-based pay equality and other issues. Wilkie told the committee members the report focused disproportionately on his record from 25 years ago and said he stood on his record on issues of equality and diversity. Lawmakers showed little interest in pushing the matter further, though Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said she still had lingering questions she would send to Wilkie in writing.

Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., the committee's chairman, pointed to the huge surge of funding VA has enjoyed in recent years in demanding that Wilkie bring positive change to the department.

"There are no excuses anymore," Isakson cautioned. "Failure is not an option."

Despite the overall friendly nature of the majority of the hearing, lawmakers warned Wilkie not to get too comfortable.

"Enjoy the honeymoon," said Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., "because the floggings will begin soon."

VA Overpaid 200,000 Vets In 2016. A New Law Would Keep Them from Debt

The Department of Veterans Affairs has accidentally overpaid hundreds of thousands sending some into debt when the government agency asked them to pay it back. But, new legislation sponsored by Sen. Sherrod Brown aims to prevent that from happening in the first place.

The U.S. Senate passed Brown's amendment to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act that requires the VA to track overpayments to veterans which is known to lead to "veteran debt," according to the senator's office. The amendment will force the VA to verify whether the agency is at fault of overpayments and whether it is disputed by a veteran.

"Our veterans sacrifice so much already to serve our country," Brown said in a prepared statement. "They shouldn't be paying for the mistakes of the Department that's supposed to serve them. This amendment is a step in the right direction to address an issue that impacts so many veterans in Ohio and across the country."

Brown's amendment is part of a larger piece of legislation the Senator has been pushing called the Veterans' Debt Fairness Act.

The bipartisan bill would only allow the VA to collect on debts that occur due to an error or fraud on the part of veterans and their beneficiary.

It would also make it so the VA can only deduct up to 25 percent from a veteran's monthly payment to recoup debt and would prevent the VA from collecting debts incurred more than five years earlier, according to Brown's office.

Brown's legislation was inspired by veteran James Powers of Massillon, Ohio, a little more than three hours northeast of Dayton. Powers was one of the hundreds of thousands of vets impacted by the VA's overpayment mistake, according to Brown's office.

Veterans Affairs News



VA's Billion-Dollar Health Records Project Will Be Tracked by New House Subcommittee

House lawmakers see 99 problems ahead for the Veteran Affairs Department's electronic health

records rollout, but oversight ain't one.

House Veterans' Affairs Chairman Phil Roe, R-Tenn., and ranking member Tim Walz, D-Minn., announced a new subcommittee to provide oversight for the department's technology modernization projects, including the multibillion-dollar effort to get the department on the same commercial electronic health records platform as the Pentagon.

More details will come after the full committee's business meeting July 12, but Roe said the subcommittee will likely consist of three to five members who will intensely focus on the EHR implementation.

"We're on the team with you," Roe told VA, DOD and Cerner officials at a Tuesday hearing about the project. "We're not here to fuss at you, we're here to make you successful."

Veterans Affairs has tried to overhaul its EHR system before, wasting \$1.1 billion in six years on failed projects. This time, the department signed a 10-year contract worth up to \$10 billion with Cerner Corp. for a platform that can seamlessly share patient records between VA facilities, the Defense Department and community care providers. It expects to spend another almost \$6 billion on infrastructure upgrades.

VA Acting Secretary Peter O'Rourke testified the department plans for an incremental, flexible implementation overseen by a properly staffed program management office and five functional governance boards. From July through September, the department expects to assess and validate initial operating capabilities at a handful of sites. In October, the EHR rollout will begin with full operating capability slated for March 2020. In the meantime, other legacy systems, such as VistA, will continue operating, he said.

Walz and Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., grilled O'Rourke about the department's many leadership vacancies that could cause problems during such a massive project. Robert Wilkie, President Donald Trump's nominee for secretary, is scheduled for a confirmation hearing Wednesday, but the roles of deputy secretary and undersecretary for health remain unfilled. O'Rourke told lawmakers department commissions had selected

three different candidates for the undersecretary role but they weren't selected. Takano pressed O'Rourke to get the position filled.

Roe said the department's acting Chief Information Officer Camilo Sandoval wasn't invited to the hearing, but a few lawmakers brought up his absence. Sandoval faces a \$25 million lawsuit for sexual discrimination and workplace harassment from when he worked on Trump's presidential campaign, according to Politico. Rep. Ann Kuster, D-N.H., pressed O'Rourke on whether Sandoval was around to do his job and what happens if he ends up losing it.

O'Rourke said Sandoval has his full confidence and has been restructuring the Office of Information Technology.

"If the president decides to remove a political appointee, then we will have somebody else step in to that role just like he stepped into the role when somebody else left," he said.

GAO Director of IT Operations Dave Powner testified an agency CIO's involvement in large-scale projects often help ensure success and for this project, support from the Executive Office of the President and the federal CIO could also help.

Lawmakers also had concerns about the rollout Defense's electronic health records systems, MHS Genesis, when the department's own testing in April declared the system was "neither operationally effective nor operationally suitable."

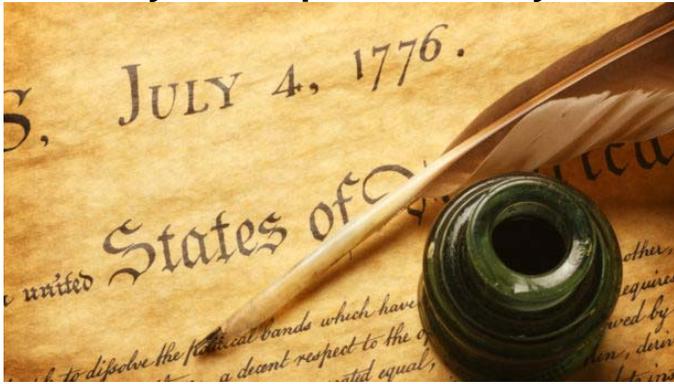
Vice Adm. Raquel Bono, director of the Defense Health Agency, told lawmakers the biggest challenges MHS Genesis faces are governance and change management, lessons Defense passes on to its Veterans Affairs counterparts.

The departments have an interagency working group that meets formally for day-long sessions about once a month and has standing Friday calls, John Windom, Veterans Affairs' program executive officer for the EHR Modernization Program told lawmakers. They also are in constant contact with clinicians working in the field, he said.

"We're all behind you," Rep. Bruce Poliquin, R-Maine, said. "But we're going to hold your feet to the fire."



A History of Independence Day



When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical.

By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in the bestselling pamphlet “Common Sense,” published by Thomas Paine in early 1776.

On June 7, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies’ independence.

Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee’s resolution, but appointed a five-man committee – including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York – to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee’s resolution for independence in a near-unanimous vote (the New York delegation abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 “will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival” and that the celebration should include “Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other.”

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence.

Membership Renewals

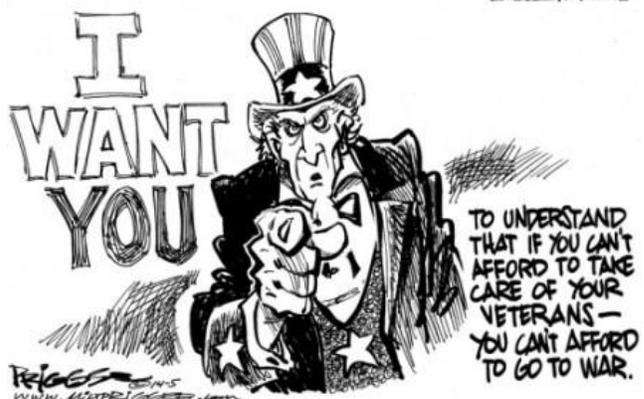
Is your membership renewal about to become due? Please renew today so you can continue to receive the Chapter newsletter, as well as the VVA Veteran! And as you renew, please consider joining the other 221 members who have chosen Life membership for \$100. You must submit a copy of your DD214 to qualify for Life membership.

50 Years Ago

- **July 1** - OPERATION PHOENIX ACTIVATED UNDER CORDS. Inter-agency Operation PHOENIX is established under CORDS. Its goal is to break Viet Cong support in the countryside.
- **July 1** - MERCHANT MARINE DETAIL ESTABLISHED. Merchant Marine Detail Saigon is established. They would support all of the services throughout the war by delivering troops, equipment, supplies to many ports throughout Vietnam.
- **July 3** - GENERAL CREIGHTON ABRAMS BECOMES COMMANDING OFFICER OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND VIETNAM. General Creighton W. Abrams succeeds General Westmoreland as commander of Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.
- **July 28** - WAYNE MAURICE CARON, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- **August 12** - KENNETH L. WORLEY, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- **August 20** - PAUL RONALD LAMBERS, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- **August 21** - MARVIN R. YOUNG, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- **August 25** - WILLIAM W. SEAY, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- **August 26** - NICKY DANIEL BACON, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- **August 29** - BLACK SOLDIERS HELD AS PRISONERS SEIZE COMPOUND, LEADS TO RIOT. In the worst incidence of racial unrest during the Vietnam War, black Soldiers held as prisoners at the Installation Stockade at Long Binh, South Vietnam, temporarily seize sections of the compound and a riot ensues. One officer, a guard, and 24 prisoners are injured in the riot and month-long siege.

Receive “The Connection” by E-Mail

The monthly Chapter 120 newsletter, The Connection, is available by e-mail. Currently, 100 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



Helping Hands for Our Fellow Veterans



Won't You Please Give a Helping Hand to a Brother or Sister Veteran?

Several veterans have contacted Chapter 120 asking for help in paying the most basic of needs for themselves and their families. These veterans are those who do not qualify for regular federal, state or local assistance – they fall into that financial category where they make too much to qualify for assistance, but not enough to afford basic needs for their families, like food, fuel for heat, or clothing for their children.

Chapter 120 has decided to ask you – our members – to lend a helping hand to your fellow veterans and their families. Won't you please consider donating for this worthy cause? Even a small amount of \$5 can make a difference – or more if you can afford to help a fellow veteran and his or her family.

Please send your generous gift, made out to Connecticut Chapter 120, to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
 Connecticut Chapter 120
 Attention: Helping Hands for Veterans
 P.O. Box 4136
 Hartford, CT 06145

Chapter 120 has established a separate line item in the budget to collect donations to assist these fellow veterans and their families in need. *And don't forget, your donations are tax deductible.*

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.

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