

# CONNECTION



Connecticut Chapter 120

Greater Hartford  
Over 35 Years of Service to Veterans

November 2018

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

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## Meetings

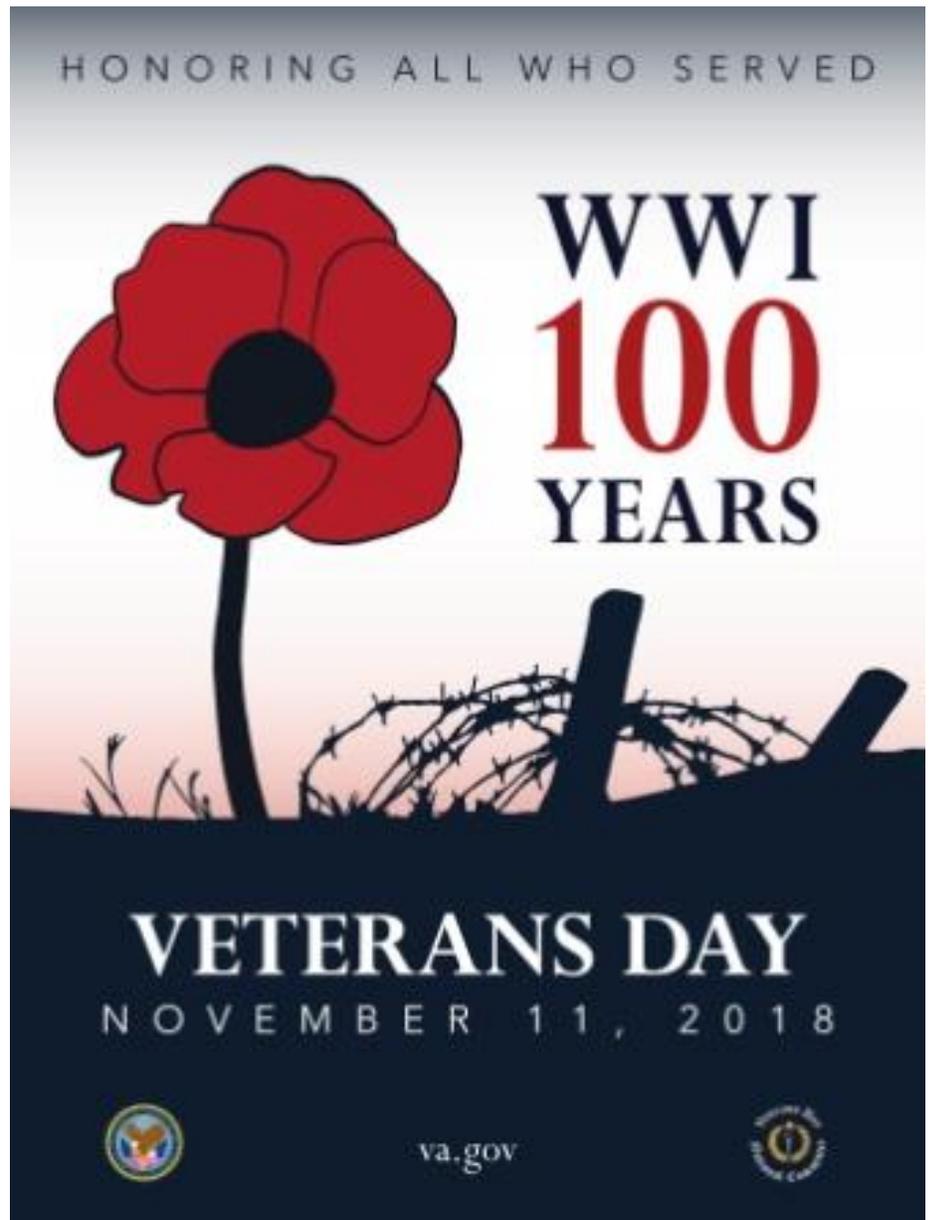
The Chapter 120 membership meeting will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Machinists Union Hall, 357 Main St., East Hartford.

The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, November 29 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 [tchapter120@aol.com](mailto:tchapter120@aol.com).

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On the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in 1918, World War I – the “Great War” – ended in an armistice. On this day, 100 years after, America commemorates the centennial of the “War to end all Wars” and those who fought and died for freedom.

<b>CHAPTER 120 OFFICE</b>	<b>568-9212</b>
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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*

**Chapter 120 Holiday Dinner Dance**  
**Mark your calendars**

Our 32nd Annual Holiday Dinner Dance will be held on December 1, 2018. Watch for invitations and tickets in your mail.

*Vietnam Veterans of America*  
**Connecticut Chapter 120**  
*The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual*

## Holiday Dinner Dance

**Saturday – December 1, 2018**  
**7 – 11:30pm**  
**Dinner at 7:45pm**




**Machinists Union Hall**  
 357 Main Street  
 East Hartford, CT 06118  
 Phone: (860) 568-9212

**Music By**  
**DJ Jeff Morgan**



**Singles - \$20      Couples - \$35**

BYOB/Setups Available – Raffles - Prizes

**Open to the Public**  
**Bring Your Family and Friends!**

*Proceeds Benefit Area Veterans and Their Families*

**Birthday Wishes**

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

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Rocco N. Arturo</i>    | <i>Eugene Bacon</i>       |
| <i>Michael Belliveau</i>  | <i>Patricia M. Dumin</i>  |
| <i>William F. Ellis</i>   | <i>Joseph Goyette</i>     |
| <i>Robert W. Hoover</i>   | <i>Robert L King</i>      |
| <i>Samuel C. Mack</i>     | <i>Frank J. Mello Jr.</i> |
| <i>Roberta A. Pacheco</i> | <i>Robert Perritt</i>     |
| <i>Paul Scappaticci</i>   | <i>Jerry D. St Amand</i>  |
| <i>Lawrence Tagnon</i>    | <i>William R. Zenga</i>   |

**Happy Birthday!**

**Veterans Day Celebration at Goodwin College**

Goodwin College student veterans will host a Veterans Day celebration on Thursday, November 8, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the lobby at One Riverside. They will welcome veterans from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Post 9/11, the D.A.V., the VFW, and the American Legion. Employees, students, and the public are encouraged to attend to speak with, and thank, our veteran community. Asking questions about a veteran's experience and learning about veterans' organizations provide opportunities to acknowledge the importance of Veterans Day and our distinguished guests. We must never forget their immense sacrifices for our state and our country. They deserve our everlasting gratitude for the freedoms that we enjoy every day. Questions: Craig Jordan at cjordan@goodwin.edu.

**Manchester Road Race adds new "Veterans' Row" to 2018 Race**

New venue to honor runners in all branches of our past and present armed forces Patriotism has always been a core value of Manchester Road Race culture. Before and during this year's 82nd annual race on Thanksgiving Day, November 22,

organizers are taking patriotism to a new level by hosting Veterans' Row at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, located at the corner of East Center Street and Main Street as runners head for the finish line. Veterans' Row will include free camouflage sport caps and pens for current military and veteran runners; a pre-race current military and veteran runner reception from 8:30 to 10 am; military equipment demonstration area; flags and a "place of honor" recognizing current military and veteran runners during the Race; and extensive media coverage before, during and after the Race. To support this new patriotic effort, sponsorship packages are available to interested businesses. For details, please contact Drew Crandall at 860.871.6500 or email mrr@keeptouch.com.

**POW/MIA News**

**WWI MIA from Connecticut**

(Extracted from the World War One Centennial on-line)

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Anderson, Geo C.</i>      | <i>Mainiero, Udino</i>       |
| <i>Bolling, Raynal</i>       | <i>Marsh, Dudley H.</i>      |
| <i>Brodeur, Clarence P.</i>  | <i>Martin, Edward J.</i>     |
| <i>Burrows, George S.</i>    | <i>McGrath, Alphonsus J.</i> |
| <i>Costello, Frank, Jr.</i>  | <i>Miller, William C.</i>    |
| <i>Craven, William S.</i>    | <i>Millio, Christ</i>        |
| <i>D'ambrosio, T.</i>        | <i>Mitchell, R. E. Jr.</i>   |
| <i>Davis, Leonard S.</i>     | <i>Montagon, John</i>        |
| <i>Di Mele, Guiseppe</i>     | <i>Moscarello, J.</i>        |
| <i>Dickinson, Seth H.</i>    | <i>Murphy, W. J.</i>         |
| <i>Duneer, Herbert J.</i>    | <i>Nevins, James J.</i>      |
| <i>Durr, William M.</i>      | <i>Newbury, Carl S.</i>      |
| <i>Erickson, L. E.</i>       | <i>Niznick, Forna G.</i>     |
| <i>Finch, Norman W.</i>      | <i>Pietro, Felice S.</i>     |
| <i>Fink, Leon G.</i>         | <i>Poinelli, Domenick</i>    |
| <i>Fitzgerald, Edward J.</i> | <i>Pucello, Joseph</i>       |
| <i>Ford, E. L.</i>           | <i>Quigley, Frank H.</i>     |
| <i>Gibbons, Peter</i>        | <i>Rentschler, F. J.</i>     |
| <i>Goodrow, Willie M.</i>    | <i>Roller, William F.</i>    |
| <i>Graham, Joseph B.</i>     | <i>Sadoesky, Walter</i>      |
| <i>Green, Dewey S.</i>       | <i>Satterlee, Charles</i>    |
| <i>Haivatentian, Lazarus</i> | <i>Scattolini, N.a.</i>      |
| <i>Halligan, William C.</i>  | <i>Serrey, John E.</i>       |
| <i>Harvey, Daniel J.</i>     | <i>Sinon, T. P.</i>          |
| <i>Healey, John B.</i>       | <i>Smilowicz, Antoni</i>     |
| <i>Holmes, Iver</i>          | <i>Smith, Merrill C.</i>     |
| <i>Irsh, Harold B.</i>       | <i>Stephano, Demetrius</i>   |
| <i>Jay, Michael</i>          | <i>Swan, Francis G.</i>      |
| <i>Kczmarczk, Adam</i>       | <i>Tedesco, Andrew J.</i>    |
| <i>Ketelhut, Otto C.</i>     | <i>Teitelman, Nathan</i>     |
| <i>Knox, William J.</i>      | <i>Thompson, Ernest D.</i>   |
| <i>Lagasse, William</i>      | <i>Tingard, Raymond H.</i>   |
| <i>Librizzi, Carl</i>        | <i>Trzaska, Joseph</i>       |
| <i>Lines, Irving E.</i>      | <i>Urquehart, Alexander</i>  |
| <i>Lobmeyer, Henry F.</i>    | <i>Valli, Pasqualino</i>     |
| <i>Locke, George W.</i>      | <i>Walton, William R.</i>    |
| <i>Lovinuk, John</i>         | <i>Wheeler, Geo F., Jr.</i>  |
| <i>Lum, Wallace B.</i>       | <i>White, Lester F.</i>      |
| <i>Lyman, Mortimer J.</i>    | <i>Wilcox, Ernest C.</i>     |
| <i>Lyniuk, John</i>          | <i>Willey, Chas W.</i>       |

**On The Hill**



**Crist Wants to Reform How VA Deals With Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange**

U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist, D-Fla., is leading the charge in trying to change how the VA handles veterans impacted by Agent Orange.

Along with U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Dean Heller, R-Nev., and U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin, R-Okla., Crist is championing the "Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act."

Crist introduced the bill and showcased it on Monday, Oct. 1. According to his

office, the bill "requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to adhere to an expedited process to expand Agent Orange coverage for new illnesses linked to exposure by the National Academy of Sciences, automatically providing benefits to veterans exposed to Agent Orange suffering from designated conditions." The Tampa Bay Democrat noted that some veterans impacted by Agent Orange are seeing as long as three years delay in the VA handling their cases.

Crist weighed in on the bill which was sent to the U.S. House Veterans Affairs Committee.

"When a veteran's medical condition is determined to be linked to their exposure to Agent Orange, they should not have their benefits tied up in bureaucratic red tape," Crist said on Monday. "I urge Congress to take swift action on this bipartisan, bicameral bill to help our Vietnam veterans receive the care and benefits they deserve that for too many have been delayed or denied."

"When it comes to taking care of our veterans, we owe it to them to be proactive rather than reactive," said Mullin. "The Agent Orange Act of 1991 required the Secretary of the VA recommend new illnesses associated with Agent Orange until the requirement lapsed in 2015. The Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act simply puts back in place the same recommendation requirements that were in place for 25 years. I am proud to introduce this bipartisan, bicameral legislation alongside Congressman Crist and Senators Heller and Brown so that our Vietnam veterans continue to receive the highest level of care we can provide."

"Vietnam veterans exposed to toxic Agent Orange chemicals should have access to the care and benefits they earned," said Brown. "VA should act quickly when presented scientific documentation related to an illness linked to toxic exposure. Our veterans have waited long enough for action."

"I have veterans in my home state of Nevada right now who are suffering from diseases, such as bladder cancer that the National Academies of Medicine has associated with Agent Orange,"

said Heller. “For example, Richard from Reno, Nevada, served in 1968 in the Korean DMZ where Agent Orange was used, and today he has bladder cancer. He deserves compensation for his exposure, and the VA’s failure to act on the NAM reports should not stand in the way. This legislation holds the VA accountable by requiring the agency to make a final determination, and I’m proud to join Sen. Brown and our colleagues in the House of Representatives to right this wrong.”

**H. R. 6941** - To extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding presumptions of service connection for diseases associated with exposure to herbicide agents, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
September 27, 2018

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Short title.

This Act may be cited as the “Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act”.

SEC. 2. Extension of authority of Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding presumptions of service connection for diseases associated with exposure to herbicide agents.

(a) In general.—Section 1116(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

(b) Treatment of reports received during expired period.— Each report described in section 1116(c)(1)(A) of such title that was received by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs during the period beginning on September 30, 2015, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be treated, for purposes of such section, as if it were received by the Secretary on the date of the enactment of this Act.

*Veterans Affairs News*



**President Trump approves appointment of 4 additional judges to VA’s Board of Veterans’ Appeals**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that President Donald J. Trump recently approved the appointment of four new Veterans Law Judges to VA’s Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

“Bringing on additional judges mean the Board will be better staffed to conduct hearings and decide appeals properly in a timely manner,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Combined

with procedural changes under the Appeals Modernization and Improvement Act of 2017 [AMA] and the hiring of more than 200 additional Board attorneys, this translates into better and faster service for Veterans.”

Veterans Law Judges are presidential appointees and go through a thorough vetting process. After an initial screening, the chairman of the Board recommends a list of candidates to the Secretary of the VA. If agreed to, the list of selectees is forwarded to the White House for final approval. Once approved, the selectees are notified by the chairman and officially sworn in.

The following Veterans Law Judges assumed their roles Oct. 14, and began holding hearings and signing decisions for Veterans and other appellants: Lauren Cryan, Evan Deichert, William Donnelly and Cynthia Skow.

In fiscal year 2018, the Board issued a historic 85,288 decisions to Veterans — 61.6 percent more than 2017. Expanding the roster of Veterans Law Judges will allow the Board to continue issuing more decisions for Veterans, as VA prepares for full implementation of the AMA. This law transforms a complex appeals process into one that is simplified, timely and transparent by providing Veterans with increased choice and control. The AMA will go into effect on Feb. 14.

**VA asked to change Lincoln quote to include women**

The words of Abraham Lincoln are usually revered, but not so for some when it comes to the motto for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans groups and Yale Law School students are asking the VA to change its creed, saying it excludes women and ignores their contributions to the military.

The VA’s mission is to fulfill a promise of America’s 16th president “to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.” Lincoln made the comments in his second inaugural address in 1865 while talking about reconciliation and reconstruction as the Civil War was coming to an end.

Yale students, representing the advocacy groups Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, NYC Veterans Alliance and Service Women’s Action Network, petitioned the VA Friday Oct. 12 to change the motto.

“The VA’s motto is outdated,” Students with Yale’s Veterans Legal Services Clinic wrote in the petition. “By excluding women, it effectively erases the meaningful contributions that women have made to the military, and communicates to women veterans that they are unwelcome outsiders.”

The students also said the VA has been failing to meet the health care needs of many women veterans and service members.

VA officials have rejected previous requests to change the motto, including one made last year by Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. The Service Women's Action Network, which advocates for women military service members and veterans, made its first request nearly a decade ago.

VA spokesman Curt Cashour said Monday the agency will review the petition and "respond appropriately."

"Lincoln's words serve as a historic tribute to all veterans, including women veterans, whose service and sacrifice inspires us all," the statement said. "They are a timeless and poignant reminder of the debt America owes all who have worn the uniform."



Supporters of changing the motto cite actions by other military institutions aimed at including women.

In 2003, the Air Force Academy removed a sign on campus that said "Bring Me Men," a phrase from an 1894 Sam Walter Foss poem. It replaced the sign with one bearing a new motto, "Integrity First. Service Before Self. Excellence in All We Do."

The U.S. Naval Academy in 2004 changed the words to its fight song "Navy Blue & Gold" to make them gender-neutral. And the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 2008 did the same with wording in its alma mater.

Retired Navy Capt. Lory Manning, director of government operations for the Service Women's Action Network, said many women service members and veterans would be happy if the VA changed the motto to "to care for those who shall have borne the battle" and removed the "for his widow, and his orphan."

"I'm sure Lincoln wouldn't mind," Manning said. "We now have over 2 million women vets in this country. It's time for the VA to signal they're not just for men anymore."

Not all female veterans, however, feel the same way.

Kayda Keleher, a Marine Corps veteran who now works for Veterans of Foreign Wars, wrote last year that changing the motto likely would cost millions of dollars because of the need to update every welcome sign, pamphlet, letterhead and other things containing the current motto. She said the money would be better spent on improving VA services to women.

From CCHeadliner.com

## Federal court hears case of veteran who worked "Broken Arrow" cleanup in 1966

A federal appeals court heard arguments in the case of U.S. veterans who claim they were denied disability benefits after falling ill to radiation exposure. An 81-year-old veteran is a key player in the case.

Yale Law School students with the Veterans Legal Services Clinic in Connecticut represent Victor Skaar, a retired U.S. Air Force chief master sergeant. Skaar filed a request with the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in Washington, challenging the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' refusal to provide disability compensation to veterans exposed to ionizing radiation.

"The message is not about this veteran," Skaar recently told the Headliner News, pointing to himself. "The message is why were 600, 700, 800 – up to 1,600 veterans – totally ignored by the VA?"

The court will decide whether a class-action lawsuit can be filed against the Veterans Affairs Department for denying disability claims.

### Cleaning up chaos

Radioactive plutonium was released near Palomares, Spain, in January 1966, after a U.S. B-52 bomber and a refueling aircraft collided and crashed. Four hydrogen bombs accidentally crashed to the ground, but did not explode or detonate.

Skaar was one of an estimated 1,600 American servicemen sent in to clean up the aftermath of the accident in Spain, and the radiative remains of the bombs. The job lasted 10 days, Skaar said, in which 5,400 steel barrels of harmful dirt and rock were collected.

The legal complaint explains Skaar's involvement. Skarr, 29 at the time, was a medical disaster control technician in the Air Force. He was part of a team that collected urine samples from the airmen working at the site of the incident.

"He recalls that it was impossible to follow proper laboratory protocols in the team's haste to respond to the disaster in difficult field conditions," the complaint reads.

Skaar's responsibilities also included using measuring radioactivity with an instrument called a PAC-1 on site of the cleanup.

"This instrument was the highest technology that the United States had to offer to detect radiation," Skaar said.

The instrument had its issues, however, Skaar said. Designed to detect radiation over flat surfaces like paved asphalt, the (blank) faced accuracy difficulties over Spain's rugged terrain. Still, it gave Skaar and the rest of the crew the best idea of the level of radiation surrounding them.

“This peaked out, pegged if you will, at one million counts per minute,” Skaar said. “There were rocks that would measure—that had been irradiated—punctured with enough energy to be radioactive themselves. It was scary.”

The men’s protection was scary, too. Skaar shared several photos with the Headliner depicting men in white coveralls and surgeon’s masks. Only a handful of the crew, he added, were privileged with respiratory masks.

“We did everything we could, given the circumstances, to protect public health, but the statement has been made, and I can’t dispute that, that they were not given adequate—we were not provided adequate treatment to provide 100 percent protection,” Skaar said.

Further, the men also did not have time to educate themselves regarding radiation’s dangers.

“Sure, they were concerned, but we had to do what we had to do,” Skaar said. “It was, ‘Just watch your hands and make sure you’re trying to not breathe that stuff.’”

**Detrimental risks**

Over 50 years later, Skaar believes many of his health complications, and possibly other veterans’, are due to the radiation exposure during the cleanup.

“Mr. Skaar has battled leukopenia, skin cancer, and prostate cancer since Palomares,” the complaint states.

But while the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes certain cancers being links to radiogenic conditions, it does not recognize the cleanup operations at Palomares as a “radiation-risk activity,” thereby stopping veterans from demonstrating the link between diseases and the Palomares cleanup.

“No one’s listening to us about it and taking our word for what happened,” Skaar said in a 2017 interview with the Headliner about the veterans who worked the Palomares site. “There’s no question about the fact we were there and no question about the fact we were exposed.”

In 1997, the doctors at the Cancer Institute diagnosed Skaar with leukopenia, which is a low white blood cell count.

The doctor “said it was caused by exposure to radiation,” Skaar said. “But the VA would not accept that.”

**Waiting period**

For now, Skaar and the rest of the veterans he’s fighting for are stuck in a waiting period following a Sept. 25 hearing before the U.S. Court of Appeals of Veterans Claims.

Skaar further addressed the case, which he hopes will see additional action in the next three to four months. He knows it can go one of two ways.

“Hopefully, it won’t be remanded, because I already told my attorneys I’m not interested in going back to the VA system. The second thing is they may adjudicate, and that’s what we hope,” Skaar said. “I suspect that my particular claim, which brought us to that level, will be denied because of my age. ... That’s okay with me, because I’m not into this thing for any kind of compensation, but I want out of this and what they want to focus on is this class action, and that’s why the court is really asking the VA ... why won’t you accept this small group of veterans?”

*From the Service Rep’s Desk*



**VVA Connecticut Veterans Benefits Program to End**

After eleven years serving our veterans and winning over \$40 million of lifetime benefits for them, we have decided it is time to end our Veterans Benefits Program in Connecticut - effective 30 June

2019. We realize there are many other veterans in the state whom we have not yet reached, but we also realize that we cannot help every veteran in this state – it’s just too much to handle for three volunteer service officers. And like most Vietnam veterans, we’re not getting any younger. We need to sit back and “smell the roses” in our golden years like many of you.

We have accomplished much over these eleven years. We have assisted over 850 veterans and their widows in obtaining their VA benefits, earning an average annual benefit of \$22,400 for each of our clients. Several have received retroactive benefits of over \$100,000 as a result of our efforts. We have brought many out of homelessness and given them resources to live in a home of their own. We have helped entire families including multiple generations of war veterans within one family. Our only payment has been the heartfelt “thank you” we receive from grateful veterans – to us, that is our reward.

And so, we will “close our books” and write the final chapter in our history of our Veterans Benefits Program by June 30th of next year. Since there are only seven months before this happens, we are no longer accepting new veteran clients. We thank the VVA Connecticut State Council for their support over the years. Without the State Council’s monetary and administrative support, we would never have achieved the goals we set for ourselves.

*From Military.com*

**Retirees, Disabled Vets Get Biggest Raise in 7 Years for 2019**

Military retirees, those who receive disability or other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, federal retirees, and social security recipients will see a 2.8 percent pay raise in their monthly checks in 2019.

It is the biggest Cost Of Living Allowance (COLA) increase in seven years, equaling as much as \$369 a month for those at the top of the retirement pay charts.

Each year military retirement pay, Survivor Benefit Plan Annuities, VA Compensation and Pensions, and Social Security benefits are adjusted for the rate of inflation.

**Retirement Pay Increase**

Thanks to the increase, the average military retirement check for an E-7 with 20 years of service will go up by \$67 a month, while an O-5 with the same time in uniform will see a \$126 monthly increase.

Retirees who entered military service on or after Aug. 1, 1986 and opted in for the Career Status Bonus (CSB/Redux retirement plan), have any COLA increases reduced by 1 percent, so they will see a 2019 increase of 1.8 percent or \$42 monthly for an E-7 with 20 years of service, or \$81 each month for an O-5 with 20 years of service.

**VA Disability Increase**

Disabled veterans will also get a bump. The average VA disability check will go up about \$4 per month for those with a 10 percent rating, and \$83 for those rated at 100 percent.

**Other Federal Retirees and Beneficiaries**

Military retirees and VA beneficiaries aren't the only ones who benefit from the COLA increase. Civil Service retirees, and Social Security recipients will also see the 2.8 percent jump in their monthly checks as well.

For Social Security recipients, the monthly increase will mean an extra \$39 per month for the average beneficiary.

**Largest COLA Bump in Years**

This annual COLA is determined by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is a measurement of a broad sampling of the cost of consumer goods and expenses. The CPI is compared to the previous year, if there is an increase there is a COLA. If there is no increase, there is no COLA.

The COLA affects about one in every five Americans, including Social Security recipients, disabled veterans, federal retirees, and retired military members.

Last year, the COLA increase was 2.0 percent; in 2017, retirees saw a 0.3 percent increase.



**Vietnam Wall Facts**

A little history most people will never know. Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

- There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.
- The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 61 years since the first casualty
- The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps LCpl Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.
- There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.
- 39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.
- 8,283 were just 19 years old
- The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.
- 12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.
- 5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.
- One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.
- 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.
- 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.
- 31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.
- Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.
- 54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia.
- 8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded.
- 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall
- Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.
- West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.
- The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.
- The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

- The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, Husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

### 50 Years Ago

**November 1 - WESTCHESTER COUNTY MINED, NAVY SUFFERS HEAVIEST LOSS OF LIFE BY ENEMY.** Two command detonated mines rip through the Westchester County (LST-1167), killing 25 and wounding 27 others. The ship, which had been serving as a Mobile Riverine Force support vessel, beaches at Dong Tam for temporary repairs, and then steams to Japan for more comprehensive repairs. During this incident, the U.S. Navy suffers its heaviest loss of life to enemy action in a single incident during the Vietnam War.

**November 1 - CHARLES CALVIN ROGERS, MEDAL OF HONOR**

**November 1 - NEW ZEALAND SPECIAL AIR SERVICE ARRIVES IN SOUTH VIETNAM.** The New Zealand Special Air Service arrives with a 26 man troop. Special Air Service objectives involve long-range reconnaissance and ambushing of enemy supply routes. Their arrival brings New Zealand's troop strength to its peak of almost 550 personnel.

**November 1 - ACCELERATED PACIFICATION CAMPAIGN STARTED.** Start of the Accelerated Pacification Campaign, a special three month effort to exploit Viet Cong losses during the Tet offensive and to expand government security in the countryside.

**November 1 - FIRST COMMANDO HUNT BEGINS.** Commando Hunt begins; it is a long-term aerial interdiction campaign against the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos.

**November 13 - LASZLO RABEL, MEDAL OF HONOR**

**November 17 - RICHARD M. NIXON ELECTED PRESIDENT.** Richard M. Nixon elected President under the promise "Peace With Honor."

**November 20 - MICHAEL J. CRESCENZ, MEDAL OF HONOR**

**November 26 - JAMES P. FLEMING, MEDAL OF HONOR**



### 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 December 2018 newsletter is 23 November 2018. Due to space availability, the editor reserves the right to include or not include photos for a given month.

### This newsletter printed by



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