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New VA secretary 'sucker punches' Vietnam Navy veterans



Vietnam War Navy veterans claim the new head of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Robert Wilkie, stabbed them in the back by promising to meet with them and instead, fired off a letter trying to kill a bill that grants them Agent Orange benefits. Wilkie sent the letter to

Isakson, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, which is now considering the legislation.

“When I met with Secretary Wilkie at his confirmation hearing, he promised me a meeting on this subject,” said John Wells, Executive Director of Military Veterans Advocacy, Inc. Instead of a face-to-face, John Wells accuses Robert Wilkie of betrayal.

The letter claims the bill will cost more than anticipated and create a bigger claims backlog. According to John Wells, Wilkie is distorting the facts.

“He’s come out with inaccurate and inflammatory material designed to convince Senate Chairman Johnny Isakson not move this bill forward,” Wells said.

“They’re not worried about taking care of the veteran or spouse,” Wells explained. Wells charges Secretary Wilkie is cutting out veterans exposed to the deadly weed killer and cutting off support for their children born with impairments.

“Look, if Secretary Wilkie wanted to meet with me and say, ‘I’m sorry, I don’t buy this,’ that’s fair,” said Wells. “But the man promised to meet with me and he refused to meet with us. He broke his promise. That to me is a betrayal.”

According to Wells, despite widespread support in the senate, this bill is being stalled by one person, Senator Johnny Isakson of Georgia, who calls himself the “Veterans’ Senator.” Isakson’s Georgia office telephone number is 770-661-0999.

See inside this newsletter for more on this issue.

Meetings

The Chapter 120 membership meeting will be held on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Machinists Union Hall, 357 Main St., East Hartford.

The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, October 25 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

Chapter/State News**Chapter 120 Holiday Dinner Dance – Mark your calendars**

Our 32nd Annual Holiday Dinner Dance will be held on December 1, 2018. Invitations and tickets will be mailed in October.

Tree experts volunteer to clean up veterans' cemeteries

On September 19, hundreds of tree experts volunteered their time at veterans' cemeteries all across the country – including Connecticut's Veterans' Cemetery in Middletown CT – making sure our nation's heroes have a final resting place befitting their sacrifice.

It's called "Saluting Branches", and it is kind of a play on words. They are saluting the various branches of the military, and the men and women who served in them, and they are doing so by pruning and cleaning the branches and trees of the nation's veterans' cemeteries.

Saluting Branches is a nationwide effort involving more than 50 veterans' cemeteries across the country.

"So it's not just Middletown, Connecticut. It's everywhere in the country," explained Richard Lewis, owner of Woodbridge Estate Care. "Tree crews are giving their time at veterans' cemeteries. There's going to be somewhere between 1900 and 2000 man hours donated today by the tree care industry."

Lewis calls this a day he loses money, his favorite day of the year.

The tree service industry is expensive with all that equipment. Estimated value of all that time and equipment donated today is in the millions of dollars.

Stand Down 2018 serves over 1,000 veterans

More than 100 agencies and organizations participated in Stand Down with close to 230 volunteers spread throughout the campus to assist over 1,000 veterans attending the day-long event. Stand Down is the DVA's signature event providing veterans with medical screenings, eye and hearing exams, and many other support services such as housing, employment, education and legal assistance; all at no cost.

From The Norwich Bulletin

Meet a veteran: Vietnam vet spent 30 years as police officer

In the military: Clay Sizer left New London High School early in 1996 to join the U.S. Army and fight for his country in Vietnam. He attended basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., before going to advanced training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. He was sent to Vietnam in 1966, joining the 18th Engineer Brigade as a heavy equipment operator, specifically working with bulldozers. He returned to the U.S. in 1967, reporting to Fort Stewart in Georgia as a range control operator. In 1968, Sizer was sent to Thailand, working as a crane operator unloading supply ships from the Sea of Siam. Sizer was discharged from the Army in March of 1969 as an E-4 Specialist.

Birthday Wishes

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

Charles F. Barrera	John J. Barry
Paul F. Barry Jr.	John Beas
Gary H. Benson	Robert T. Burgess
Clyde H. Callejo	Dean Clarke
Roger Conley	James H. Darby
Roger Feder	Michael Grip
Theodore A. Groenstein	Lawrence Labarre
Nancy Rousselle	Dennis Sines
Dave E. Spafford	Steven A. Wowk

And a special birthday wish to Nathaniel J. Cutler, grandson of Chapter members Mike Belliveau and John Cutler.



After the military: Sizer, who earned his general equivalency diploma), returned to New London, and took a job with General Dynamics in Groton. “It’s the only work I could find at the time,” Sizer said. He worked only briefly for General Dynamics before becoming a police officer with the New London Police Department, where he worked for 30 years. After retiring from the police force, Sizer took another job with General Dynamics, as a nuclear core operator, before

retiring in 2014. He now lives in Waterford, and is unmarried with three children.

Quotable: “The military taught me a lot, primarily respect, camaraderie, and to help others.”

Clay Sizer is a VVA Life member of Connecticut Chapter 270.

POW/MIA News



POW/MIA Count

Update: September 21, 2018

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. Within this mission, we search for missing personnel from World War II (WWII), the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the

Cold War, the Gulf Wars, and other recent conflicts. Our research and operational missions include coordination with hundreds of countries and municipalities around the world.

At present, more than 82,000 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the 82,000 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.).

- WW II - 72,818
- Korea - 7,680
- Vietnam - 1,594
- Cold War - 126
- Gulf War - 5
- El Dorado Canyon (Libya) – 1

On The Hill



Congress Clears Way to Fund Largest VA Spending Bill in History

These last few weeks Congress has feverishly worked to pass a number of spending bills to ensure the federal government is funded when the new fiscal year starts Oct. 1.

Among a series of spending measures sent to President Trump was the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) appropriations. The VA will receive its full budget for FY 2019 and partial advance funding for FY 2020 to assure continuity of veterans' health and disability, education, survivors,

memorial and other benefit payments between fiscal years.

The appropriations bill is the VA's largest spending bill in history, providing more than \$197 billion for health and benefits programs – over \$86 billion in discretionary (mostly medical-related programs) and over \$110 billion in mandatory benefit payments.

Key provisions contained in the bill:

- Funding to support the new VA MISSION Act, including additional funding for community care, expansion of VA’s comprehensive caregiver services and money to modernize medical facilities.
- Expanding mental health services, including integration of mental health with primary care services through telehealth, medical centers and community clinics.
- Directing more resources to the delivery of care in rural communities.
- Funding to redesign VA’s health care delivery system to better meet the needs of women veterans.
- Funding for a variety of treatment and prevention programs targeting opioid abuse, substance disorders, and justice outreach for homeless veterans.
- Expanding long-term care programs in both institutional and home settings.
- Establishing a new pilot program to develop best practices and support services for providing hospice and non-palliative care to meet the unique needs of combat veteran.
- Funding to modernize VA’s electronic health record and appointment scheduling systems.
- Requiring VA to track and monitor individual debt resulting from delays in processing veterans benefits.
- Funding for the appropriate staffing and resources to reduce wait times and backlog of disability claims and appeal decisions

The veterans’ spending bill was part of a larger package of bills providing funding to three other federal agencies, defense for military construction, water and energy, and the legislative



branch. The minibus appropriations package represents the first time in over 10 years Congress has sent more than one spending bill to the president before the end of the fiscal year.

Isakson, Tester Applaud Senate Passage of Bill to Continue Critical Veterans Services, Benefits

U.S. Senators Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., and Jon Tester, D-Mont., chairman and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, applauded the Senate passage of bipartisan legislation they introduced to ensure veterans continue to have access to critical programs at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018 reauthorizes numerous programs and services at the VA for fiscal year 2019, which begins on Oct. 1, 2018. The legislation ensures that many important programs, including veterans' homelessness prevention, adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans, and workforce training for injured service members, continue to be available. A number of authorizations included in the bill were set to expire at the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, while others were set to expire in 2019.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018 represents a bipartisan, bicameral agreement reached with U.S. Representatives Phil Roe, R-Tenn., and Tim Walz, D-Minn., Isakson and Tester's counterparts in the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

"I'm pleased my colleagues in the Senate supported this bipartisan bill to help ensure that vital VA services, such as programs to help homeless, disabled, rural and minority veterans, continue into the new fiscal year," said Isakson. "I thank Ranking Member Tester, Chairman Roe, Ranking Member Walz and members of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee for their efforts in reaching this bipartisan agreement. The Senate has now passed 21 major pieces of veterans' legislation this Congress, a remarkable achievement and a true testament to our teamwork. By working together, we are truly making progress for our nation's veterans."

"Rural, disabled and homeless Montana veterans rely on these initiatives every day," said Tester. "By making sure that veterans can get to their doctor appointments on time and get back on their feet, we are making good on the promises we have made to our veterans and their families. This bipartisan agreement shows what Congress can get done when we work together."

The Senate approved S.3479, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018, by voice vote. The measure now heads to the full U.S. House of Representatives for a vote.

This is the 21st piece of legislation passed by the Senate – including 20 bills that have already been signed into law – that aim to strengthen veterans' health care, benefits and protections.

Veterans Affairs News



From Stars & Stripes

Wilkie opposes bill that would extend Agent Orange benefits to 'Blue Water' veterans

New Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie

has come out against extending benefits to veterans who served off the coast during the Vietnam War, citing high costs and insufficient evidence that they were exposed to Agent Orange.

Wilkie urged senators in a letter on Sep. 7 to reject legislation that would make health care and disability compensation available to approximately 90,000 "Blue Water" Navy veterans – those sailors aboard aircraft carriers, destroyers and other ships who contend they were exposed to Agent Orange through the ships' water systems. The dioxin-laden herbicide has been found to cause respiratory cancers, Parkinson's disease and heart disease, as well as other conditions.

The bill passed the House unanimously in June and was sent to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

"We know it is incredibly difficult to hear from Blue Water veterans who are ailing and ill, and we have great empathy and compassion for these veterans and their families," Wilkie wrote to Senate VA committee members. "However, we urge the committee to consider the scientific evidence, impact on other veterans and costs associated with this legislation."

The VA is conducting a study to compare the health of deployed Vietnam War veterans, including Blue Water Navy veterans, to others of similar age who weren't deployed. Wilkie urged senators to wait until the study publishes in late 2019 before deciding on the legislation.

Wilkie's stance deviates from that of former VA Secretary David Shulkin, who said last year that he was committed to extending benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans despite a lack of scientific evidence.

"It's too late for us to be able to get solid scientific evidence, so we just have to do the right thing," Shulkin said during a House hearing in October 2017. "There is no doubt our Vietnam veterans have waited too long for us to bring this to resolution."

Wilkie also took issue with the method included in the bill to pay for the increased costs of the benefits. To make up the cost, the legislation raises fees for servicemembers and veterans who use the VA's home loan program.

The method wouldn't generate enough savings, Wilkie argued. He said the VA estimates the legislation would end up costing the agency \$5.5 billion – much more than the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated it would. Wilkie argued the Congressional Budget Office underestimated by thousands

the number of veterans and dependents who would become eligible for VA services.

Further, Wilkie wrote the VA would need 803 new employees in order to implement the bill.

John Wells, a retired Navy officer, has been fighting on behalf of Blue Water Navy veterans since 2008 with the group Military-Veterans Advocacy. He described Wilkie's \$5.5 billion estimate as ludicrous. He said he felt "betrayed" by Wilkie, with whom he has been trying to meet for months.

"I'm very disappointed in Secretary Wilkie," Wells said. "He promised me a meeting. We thought he would do that before he came out and signed off on this."

The Senate VA committee discussed the legislation during a hearing Aug. 1. Committee members heard from Paul Lawrence, VA undersecretary of benefits, who voiced his opposition. He said the bill would set a bad precedent for approving benefits for illnesses without proof that they were caused by military service.

The committee hasn't scheduled a vote for the bill and has provided no updates on it since the August hearing.

Rep. Tim Walz of Minnesota, the ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said there were efforts underway to push the bill through Congress, even without the VA's support.

"I find the Trump administration's sudden rigid opposition to this bipartisan legislation difficult to comprehend," Walz said in a statement. "Our nation owes it to these veterans to get this done. I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers to make sure that happens, even if we have to drag the administration along, kicking and screaming, to do so."

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 \$1,600 in printing and 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

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 218 members who have chosen Life membership for \$100. You must submit a copy of your DD214 to qualify for Life membership.

VSOs Push Back Against Blue Water Navy Comments



A number of military service organizations are pushing back against VA Secretary Robert Wilkie for his "inaccurate" and "misleading" statements made in a letter concerning health benefits for Blue Water Navy veterans who served in Vietnam.

Wilkie's letter, addressed to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, was an attempt to scuttle legislation that would add Blue Water Navy vets to the presumptive list of Agent Orange exposure. Approximately 90,000 veterans who served aboard ships off the coast of Vietnam could be included in this measure.

The Military Coalition, a group made of service member and veteran organizations, countered with its own letter to the committee on Sept. 19, urging the Senate leaders to move forward with the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017.

Wilkie's letter "is inaccurate and misstates key facts," the Coalition wrote. "You deserve to be fully informed and the Veterans deserve to be heard on this important matter."

Among Wilkie's claims was a comment this measure would create a backlog and jeopardize gains made to control the VA's workload.

"This argument is akin to the Secretary positing that taking care of elderly, disabled veterans would be too much work, so it would be helpful to VA if Congress would instead continue to deny these veterans the benefits," the letter reads. "This rationale is an illegitimate basis upon which to oppose this, or any veteran benefit legislation."

The Military Coalition also took issue with Wilkie's claims that "disabled veterans would be negatively and disproportionately impacted by modified funding fees for VA-guaranteed home loans."

"This is partly false and totally misleading because it fails to make clear that all disabled veterans (not only those who are rated 'permanent and total') are exempt from fees for loans below the "jumbo loan" limit, currently ranging between \$453,100 and \$679,650 depending upon the geographic area," the Coalition stated. "VA failed to clarify the types of VA Home Loans provided, which would more accurately inform the impact. Congress should not accept VA's speculative and unsupported assertion."

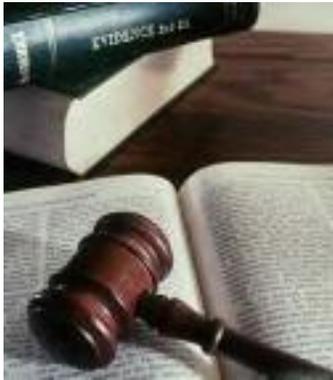
The letter also indicates Wilkie's \$5.5 billion cost estimate for the legislation is dramatically high. The coalition said Congress should rely on the Congressional Budget Office, which can obtain the estimated number of people eligible for the benefit.

"It is undisputed that these veterans are suffering and have suffered for decades, with significant strain and sacrifice by

their caregivers,” according to the letter. “There is no more time to waste.”

From DisabledVeterans.org

All Rise: Class-Action Lawsuits against VA Are Now On the Table



Based on the federal court decision in *Monk v. Wilkie*, in which an eight-judge panel reexamined the fairness of VA precedent barring larger lawsuits, class action is now deemed appropriate in some cases.

VA now joins the fold of federal entities that we can sue in large numbers. This could be huge for veterans who have suffered for widespread reasons. Agent Orange, Gulf War illness, Camp Lejeune. It seems like this may be a watershed moment.

Maybe there is even a possible class-action case for military sexual assault. After all, military service is a form of employment, and American employers are tasked with providing a tolerant work environment to their employees, insofar as that might be possible.

Well, the Armed Forces are American employers. Arguably the most American of American employers.

Basically, the “hostile work environment” rhetoric shakes out like this: if anyone hurts you, it should be the other guy. Your wartime enemy, not your comrades in arms. Your unit has the same duty of honor and trust toward you as you have to them.

But the real question is... now what? Which cases will come together in true class-action form? Which cases are still better fought as a single person or a small group?

Catherine McCarthy, a law student at Yale who handled the *Monk* case, is excited about the possibilities. “It’s still trial and error at this point to see what will work,” she said. “But it’s a great opportunity, because so much of what we hear wrong about VA are systemic problems, not just one veteran dealing with a single issue.”

Systemic problems. Widespread dissatisfaction, unsafe living conditions at inpatient facilities, appeals lost in the bureaucracy for a year or more. Sound familiar?

John Rowan, President of Vietnam Veterans of America, immediately recognized the potential for a knock-down and drag-out fight over Agent Orange exposure, including the “Blue Water” veterans who served on ships within twelve miles of shore.

“The good thing is once there is a court ruling, it’s a done deal,” he said. “If the court orders them to make a change, there’s no budget aspect to it like there is with legislative fixes.”

Veterans dealing with burn pit exposure illnesses and other toxic chemical exposure could use this new opportunity to force VA’s hand.

Of course, the major downside to the class-action lawsuit has not changed: It takes forever to complete the discovery process for so many people. So many pages of documents, so many combined years of service... there is always a lot of information to uncover in class action.

For big VA battles, class action just might be law done right... but it would never be law done fast.

Agent Orange veterans, for example, have this annoying tendency to develop rare cancers at elevated rates from the norm. But if you have a rare cancer and may die from it, how much of your remaining life do you want to spend in court? Asking the big questions here.

These kinds of cases are high-maintenance, high-profile... and high-cost. Even a law firm dedicated to VA cases, like Krause Law, will likely not be accepting these types of complaints unless it is large enough to shoulder the caseload.

That said, this is still a major step forward for veterans, offering a major new avenue to legal victory that VA had always jammed shut... until now.

VA achieves historic goal by delivering 81,000 appeals decisions to Veterans in fiscal 2018

On Sept. 14, two weeks ahead of schedule, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) exceeded its goal to deliver 81,000 appeals decisions of disability benefits and services to Veterans in fiscal year 2018 — 28,000 more decisions than the previous year.

In doing so, VA’s Board of Veterans’ Appeals provided thousands of Veterans with critical, life-changing decisions.

“The Board’s historic achievement delivering results to Veterans and their families reflects VA’s hard work and commitment to getting it right for our Veterans under the leadership of President Trump,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Together, we have achieved significant results for our nation’s Veterans, as each of the more than 81,000 decisions produced by the Board can make a real difference in their lives and for their families.”

The achievements come amid focused Board efforts to prepare for the full implementation of the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017, which is transforming a historically complex appeals process into a simple, timely and transparent process providing Veterans with increased choice and control. Veterans who disagree with the initial claim decision have three options under the Act:

1. Higher Level Review at the office of original jurisdiction
2. Supplemental Claim with the office of original jurisdiction
3. Appeal to the Board

Once a Veteran appeals to the Board, he or she remains in control of the process by choosing one of three dockets best suited to the appeal:

1. Direct Review Docket
2. Evidence Docket
3. Hearing Docket

To support the various organizations preparing to help Veterans navigate the new appeals process, the chairman of the Board and her staff led numerous training sessions and panels held by national, state and local Veteran Service Organizations and private legal organizations.

To maintain its momentum, the Board hired 186 new attorneys this fiscal year, and plans to add 30 more to the team by Sept. 30. Additionally, the Board is joining the Military Spouse Employment Partnership in October, and looks forward to participating in a program that helps bring the valuable insights and tremendous talent of military spouses to the Board.

From Task & Purpose - by Jay Kirell

Here's What Happens When Your Local Porta Potty Cleaner Just Up and Leaves

On my outpost in Kandahar, we had six porta-potties for about 60 guys, which is a good ratio. We contracted out this local Afghan dude who had a vacuum truck to come and clean them every week. We called him "Bob Vila" because he had a very short, thick beard that made him look like, well, Bob Vila.

From the time I got there in late June until September, he came by and sucked out the poop. Then, one week, he just stopped coming around. Days went by, and you could start to notice the smell all over the outpost. Every time you went into a porta-potty, you could see the level of poop rising like a newly-formed land mass after a volcano eruption. A few inches a day, every day.

We asked where "Bob Vila" was, but nobody knew. We had no idea if he quit, was killed, captured. I mean, anything could happen to local people who were seen helping Americans, so we thought the worst.

Eventually, two weeks go by and all six stalls are filled right up to the rim. Guys were squatting on top of the seats because if you sat down normally you'd end up pooping in yourself. It was literally over max capacity in every stall. Flies were everywhere. Guys only took shits when they were about ready to burst. Some guys just quit using them all together and started using empty ammo cans. Luckily we were a mortar platoon and mortar cans are rather large and perfect squatting height; at one point in the deployment, we had rows of ammo cans by the mortar pit and another row of ammo cans waaaaay back off to the side of the outpost where everyone started doing their business.

It was ... a mess.

Then one day salvation arrived. Or rather, returned. "Bob Vila" and his truck rolled back in. You would have thought we caught bin Laden, everyone was so excited. He had to make two trips to clean out all six stalls, but he eventually got them good as new again and we went back to shitting like normal humans. Before he left we asked him where he'd been. "Vacation," he said.

Where an Afghan poop cleaner goes on vacation I don't know, but it better have been worth it.

Jay Kirell is an Afghanistan combat veteran who deployed with the 101st Airborne to Kandahar as an IIC. He makes his home in Indiana and is writing a novel about his deployment. Follow him on Twitter @jasonkirell

Ed. Note: No porta-potties in Vietnam. 55 gallon barrels, cut in half, positioned under a "hole" in a communal shitter. Luckily on my base, the local Vietnamese were hired to burn the "waste" each morning – well after we reported to the flight-line so we could avoid the stench.



50 Years Ago

October 15 - NAVY MOVES TO CUT OFF ENEMY FROM CAMBODIA. Developed by Commander Naval Forces, Vietnam Vice Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., SEALORDS (Southeast Asia Lake, Ocean, River, and Delta Strategy) begins with the goal of cutting off North Vietnamese and Viet Cong supply lines from Cambodia. To accomplish this end, the Navy establishes a string of small bases and barrier patrols along the waterways near the Cambodian border.

October 29 - NAVY SUCCEEDS IN SURPRISE ATTACK. In a surprise attack in the Lon-Bo De River area of South Vietnam, Navy patrol boats join South Vietnamese Air Force A-1 Skyraiders, the tank landing ship Washoe County and the Coast Guard high-endurance cutter Wachusett in destroying 242 enemy watercraft and 167 structures during a period of five hours.

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.*

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 November 2018 newsletter is 19 October 2018. Due to space availability, the editor reserves the right to include or not include photos for a given month.

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