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## Connecticut Native Air Force Tech Sgt. John Chapman posthumously receives Medal of Honor

Sixteen years after he sacrificed himself defending his team on a 10,000-foot peak known as Takur Ghar in Afghanistan, Air Force Technical Sgt. John Chapman has received the Medal of Honor.

In a ceremony at The White House on August 22, President Donald Trump presented the posthumous award to Chapman's wife, Valerie Nessel. A military aide read the citation during the ceremony, which detailed the airman's incredible heroism and the sacrifice of "his life for the lives of his teammates."

Chapman's actions occurred on March 4, 2002 during Operation Anaconda, the largest battle involving conventional U.S. troops in the Afghanistan War. While attached to SEAL Team 6 as a combat controller — the team's expert on air strikes and communications — Chapman was one of the first off the helicopter as the team tried to rescue a fallen SEAL.

Trudging through thigh-deep snow, Chapman and the others fought back against al Qaeda fighters that had dug in on the mountaintop. And when the team fell back under withering enemy fire, Chapman remained behind to fight on for an hour and attempted to cover the approach of a quick reaction force, before he was shot and killed.

"Despite severe, mortal wounds, he continued to fight relentlessly," the citation says. "Sustaining a violent engagement with multiple enemy personnel before making the ultimate sacrifice."

Sergeant Chapman graduated from Windsor Locks High School, Windsor Locks, Connecticut, in 1983. He enlisted in the Air Force on September 27, 1985, as an information systems operator and later volunteered to be a Combat Controller, where he was tasked to solve air and ground problems across the spectrum of conflict and crisis. Trained to infiltrate in combat and austere environments, he was an experienced static line and military free fall jumper, combat diver, and earned jumpmaster and dive supervisor qualifications. Later, he was selectively hired for a special duty assignment at the 24th Special Tactics Squadron.

*See the full citation of Sergeant Chapman's Medal of Honor 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, September 27 at 7:00pm. Call the Chapter office for any changes in schedule. Chapter members are welcomed to attend.

## Notice

If you have moved or changed your address, PLEASE notify us immediately. Call the Chapter office at (860) 568-9212, mail us at the address on the back of this newsletter or e-mail the Newsletter editor at [ctchapter120@aol.com](mailto:ctchapter120@aol.com).

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*Chapter/State News*

**Medal of Honor Citation  
Technical Sergeant John A. Chapman**



Technical Sergeant John A. Chapman distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism as an Air Force Special Tactics Combat Controller, attached to a Navy Sea, Air, and Land (SEAL) Team conducting reconnaissance operations in Takur Ghar, Afghanistan, on March 4, 2002. During insertion, the team's helicopter was ambushed causing a teammate to fall into an entrenched group of enemy combatants below. Sergeant Chapman and the team voluntarily reinserted onto the snow-capped mountain, into the heart of a known enemy stronghold to rescue one of their own. Without regard for his own safety, Sergeant Chapman immediately engaged, moving in the direction of the closest

enemy position despite coming under heavy fire from multiple directions. He fearlessly charged an enemy bunker, up a steep incline in thigh-deep snow and into hostile fire, directly engaging the enemy. Upon reaching the bunker, Sergeant Chapman assaulted and cleared the position, killing all enemy occupants. With complete disregard for his own life, Sergeant Chapman deliberately moved from cover only 12 meters from the enemy, and exposed himself once again to attack a second bunker, from which an emplaced machine gun was firing on his team. During this assault from an exposed position directly in the line of intense fire, Sergeant Chapman was struck and injured by enemy fire. Despite severe, mortal wounds, he continued to fight relentlessly, sustaining a violent engagement with multiple enemy personnel before making the ultimate sacrifice. By his heroic actions and extraordinary valor, sacrificing his life for the lives of his teammates, Technical Sergeant Chapman upheld the highest traditions of military service and reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

*From The Norwich Bulletin*

**Meet a Veteran: Norwich man served in Air Force during Vietnam era**



In the military: Harry Way III, 70, joined the Air Force in November 1966 shortly after graduating from Norwich Free Academy. The Vietnam War was going on at the time. "I was either going to get drafted, I was going to go to college or I was going to enlist," he said. "I decided that the best thing for me was to go into the Air Force." Way went through basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, then was assigned to Amarillo, Texas, to attend technical school to be trained as a jet engine mechanic. He then went to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey, where he worked on engines on C-135 and C-141 transport planes. Way said it was an

easy assignment. "I was close to home. I could go home on weekends." Way spent 2 1/2 years there, then got assigned to Upper Heyford, a base in England. His job changed to maintaining the engines on two HH-43 helicopters of an air rescue unit. Way said the men of the unit were on call 24 hours per day in case a pilot had a problem. "It was exciting," he said. "It was probably the best duty I had." Luckily, Way said, no one crashed during his time there. In the winter of 1970, he spent several months at a base in Norway while taking part in NATO training exercises. "It was the coldest place I've ever been," he said. He said the Norwegian base's runways were next to a mountain containing a huge manmade cave where planes were stored. "A whole mountain they carved out," he said. "Every day they would scramble fighter jets against the Russians." Unlike many of his NFA classmates and

**Birthday Wishes**

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

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

**Happy Birthday!**

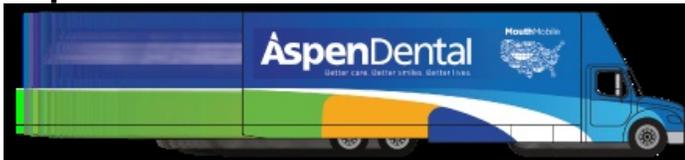
others he met in the Air Force, Way never went to Vietnam. "I was one of the fortunate ones," he said. Going home, though, Way said people opposed to the war spit on him and called him a baby killer. "It's a shame," he said.

After the military: When Way got out, he was married, had a child and had another on the way. "I worked at a lot of manufacturing jobs in the area," he said. He is now retired. He and his wife, Nancy, will celebrate their 50th anniversary on Dec. 7. They have two sons and a daughter, and seven grandchildren.

Quotable: "It was a job. You didn't have to worry about this and that," Way said. "We worked 8 to 4:30, and after that we were done. I learned a lot, and grew up a lot too. ... Right to this day, I think I should have stayed in."

*Harry Way is a Life member of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 270.*

## Veterans Dental Care Event Invitation: September 11th



Aspen Dental's MouthMobile – a 42-foot-long dentist office on wheels - is coming to Hartford on September 11 to provide free care to local veterans as part of this year's 30-stop cross-country tour. Dentists and their teams from area Aspen Dental practices are volunteering their services for the event.

Aspen Dental has invited Congressman Larson or a representative from his office to stop by to meet area veterans, tour the MouthMobile and hear more about our Healthy Mouth Movement, which focuses on empowering veterans through the gift of a healthy smile.

Date: Tuesday, September 11th  
 Time: 9:00am-3:00pm  
 Place: Connecticut Capital State Park-210 Capitol Ave.  
 Hartford, CT 06106  
 Parking: TBD

Aspen Dental is working with American Legion Dept. of Connecticut to identify interested veterans and schedule their appointments.

The MouthMobile, which will be parked at the State Capital Park, is handicap accessible and fully equipped with two operatories, digital X-rays and a denture lab.

For more information or to let us know you're attending, please contact Stefani Alexander at (202) 263-2588 or stefani@curleycompany.com .

*Extract from The Journal Inquirer*

## Andover vet's effort leads to House bill on Agent Orange

After a six-week cross-country motorcycle ride, Andover resident Gerry Wright has more than mileage to show for his effort. Wright rode more than 10,000 miles throughout May and June to raise awareness of the diseases many veterans suffer from because of their exposure to Agent Orange during their service in the Vietnam War.



Helen McDonald presents 111 petition signatures to Gerry Wright.

Wright's many local Connecticut stops included a lunch at Rocky Hill Veterans Home in Connecticut, meeting with Connecticut Department of Veteran Affairs commissioner Thomas Saadi. While at the Veterans Home, VVA Chapter 120 member Helen McDonald presented Wright with 111 signatures she collected for the petition to raise awareness of the Agent Orange issue.

In large part due to Wright's activism and awareness-raising, Rep. Joseph D. Courtney, D-2nd District, presented a bill (H.R.6566) on July 26 to the U.S. House of Representatives, proposing changes to current limits on compensation for some veterans who were exposed to the herbicide.

Under current law, veterans must have reported the manifestation of two diseases — chloracne, which resembles severe acne, and porphyria cutanea tarda, which can cause excessive hair growth and skin blistering — within one year of the last date of their service in Vietnam to receive compensation for the diseases. One additional Agent Orange-related condition — acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy — is not covered at all.

"You're asking people to self-diagnose, (when they) are not medical doctors or professionals," Courtney said. "It's really kind of a sinister Catch-22 that you're asking people to demonstrate something that they're not qualified, (and) were never qualified, to diagnose."

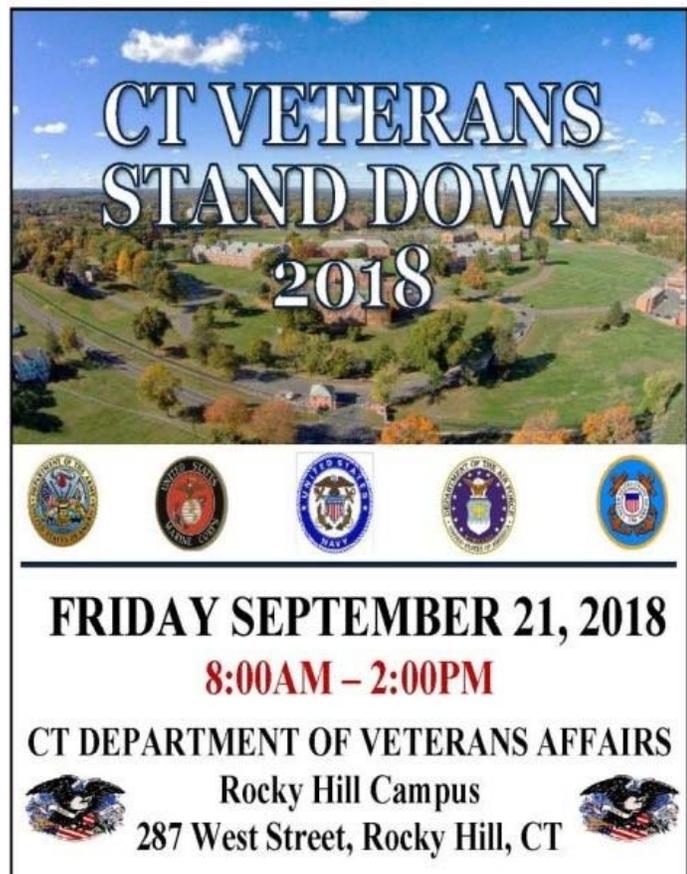
The bill that Courtney presented — the Agent Orange Exposure Fairness Act — would remove the time limitations for the manifestation of chloracne and porphyria cutanea tarda, and it adds acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy to the list of recognized diseases.

Courtney, who said he has known Wright for years, called Wright "a real giver" who often focuses on making positive changes for others' lives.

With the bill now on the floor, Wright said he's working to urge other members of the House to sign on. Movement has been slow during the House's August recess, Wright said, and no action can be taken until the House is back in session in September.

"Who the heck would have thought that a little old guy from Andover would have a House bill?" Wright said. "Congress needs to right a wrong. You cannot, I do not feel, put an end date on illness."

On August 21, Sen. Blumenthal introduced a sister bill (S 3355) to Courtney's House bill. Both bills are now with their respective Committees on Veterans' Affairs.



**CT VETERANS  
STAND DOWN  
2018**

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2018  
8:00AM – 2:00PM

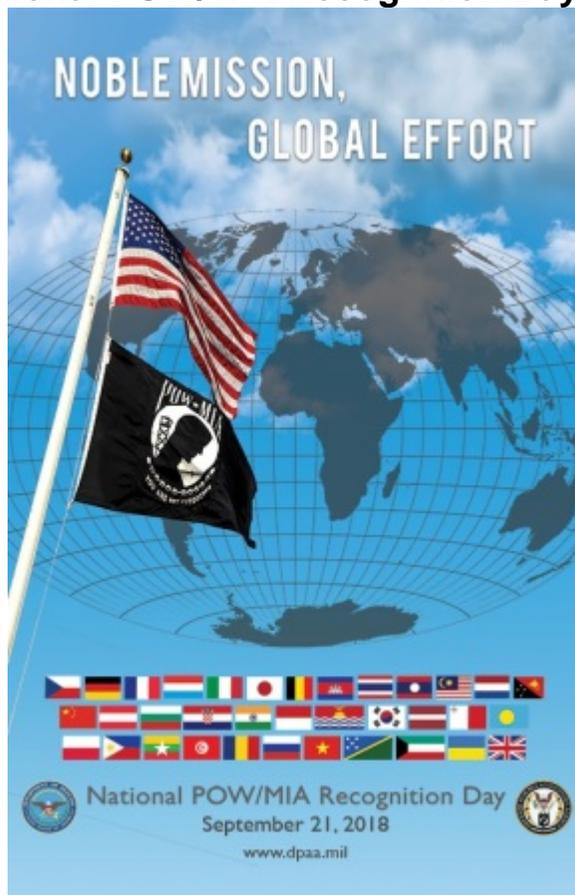
CT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Rocky Hill Campus  
287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT

**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](mailto:ctchapter120@aol.com)

**POW/MIA News**

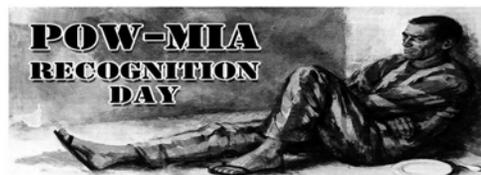
**National POW/MIA Recognition Day**



Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. It is traditionally observed on the third Friday in September each year. This observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

The flag is to be flown at major military installations, national cemeteries, all post offices, VA medical facilities, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the official offices of the secretaries of state, defense and veterans affairs, the director of the selective service system and the White House.

A Pentagon ceremony featuring members of each branch of military service is held annually on National POW/MIA Recognition Day.



## On The Hill



*From Government Executive*

## Senate Confirms Robert Wilkie to Serve as Trump's Second VA Secretary

On July 23, The Senate voted overwhelmingly to approve Robert Wilkie to serve as secretary of the Veterans Affairs Department, the second confirmed to the position under President Trump.

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), will enter his

new role at a precarious time for the department. It is in the midst of implementing several key reforms, including an overhaul of how the department provides care to veterans. The changes have led to a fight over the extent to which VA patients should have access to private health care, though Wilkie has swept aside any accusations that he will seek to privatize the department.

Still, that fight as well as other issues raised against Wilkie, led the nominee to be the first VA secretary in the history of the department, in its current form, to receive any oppositional votes on the Senate floor (86-9).

VA is also facing allegations of political bias in the treatment of top career civil servants and misplaced interpretation of a new law to ease the disciplinary process for malfeasant and underperforming employees, potential mass closures of department facilities, internal disputes, changes to disability claims processing and lingering fallout from an array of recent scandals.

In his confirmation hearing, Wilkie said he has no interest in privatizing the department and he promised to fill vacancies throughout VA. He also knocked 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.

Wilkie said his top priorities as secretary will be to improve access to health care by implementing a recently signed law to ease veterans' access to private care on the government's dime, reduce the claims backlog, reform business systems 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.

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 secretary-designate also promised to boost pay rates for low-ranking VA employees to address turnover.

Lawmakers have warned Wilkie they will hold him accountable for implementing the changes he promised.

"Enjoy the honeymoon," Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., said at Wilkie's confirmation hearing, "because the floggings will begin soon."

### Veterans Affairs News



*From DisabledVeterans.org*

## Blue Water Veterans Stalled? VA Vehemently Opposes New Legislation

Paul Lawrence, Undersecretary for VA Benefits, recently unleashed a blistering attack against the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act (HR 299), which would extend disability benefits to at least 70,000 Vietnam vets suffering from dioxin-related ailments.

Agent Orange, commonly used as a defoliant in the thick jungles of Vietnam, causes these ailments, and there is clear and convincing scientific evidence that these 70,000 veterans were also exposed to this chemical.

These soldiers were shipboard personnel who generally patrolled about 12 miles off the coastline, but precedent does suggest that this distance does not preclude Agent Orange exposure. Also, Congress does not differentiate between levels of exposure among land-based Vietnam vets, only whether they were exposed or not.

And yet...

VA is raring to go, citing "lack of sufficient scientific evidence" to grant these benefits, urging Senators to worry about "uncontrolled demands" for future VA benefits.

He specifically urged the Senate because this bill has already passed the House - UNANIMOUSLY. How rare must it be, in this age of polarized parties, that the House passes a bill unanimously?

As the former, doomed VA Secretary David Shulkin said of this legislation, "these veterans have waited too long and this is a responsibility that this country has."

Now, after blasting the bill, Blue Water veterans may end up with nothing as the bill is stalled in the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

As it turns out, it is possible to be a discerning and conservative political official who is concerned about fiscal responsibility... and advocates for this legislation, given the evidence at hand. Shulkin was. At the very least, he refused to oppose Blue Water outright.

The House and Senate VA Committees have worked on this bill in close coordination and even started to figure out how to pay for it. That not only shows the extent of their commitment to Blue Water but their relative certainty that it eventually WILL be funded. All \$7 billion of it.

A massive 2011 study conducted by the Australian government shows ample evidence that shipboard personnel were, in fact, exposed to Agent Orange and similar dioxins, entitling them to disability benefits under that government.

Lawrence dismissed the impact of that study entirely.

He also stated that VA home loans, the aspect of VA's budget that would be cut most to pay for this initiative, are too important to raise even minimally, evoking predatory lenders as the only possible alternative for veterans who would otherwise pay a VA home loan normally.

In other words, "We will claim scientific uncertainty, as long as it helps us. You have evidence, but we have decided that it does not count for enough. We will prioritize deterring hypothetical predatory lenders over helping the real injured veterans."

Regardless of party lines, this sort of conduct is not reasonable. It is not governed by facts or logic. It is tribalism, and it is money. Our guy said to oppose this, so we will. It would be expensive, so we automatically do not want it. We will say anything we believe will make us look good, and nothing else.

This is what post-truth, "alternative facts" government really looks like.

A majority of Senators continue to support this legislation, so the immediate impact of this testimony is unclear. That said, it would be wise to expect months of further turmoil in the Senate about this.

*From CNN*

### **VA may have fumbled over 1,000 sexual trauma claims, report says**

The Department of Veterans Affairs incorrectly processed hundreds of claims related to military sexual trauma last year -- a breakdown in procedure that may have "resulted in the denial of benefits to veterans who could have been entitled to receive them," according to a report from the VA's Office of the Inspector General released Tuesday, August 21.

The Veterans Benefits Administration denied nearly half of the 12,000 claims that were filed in 2017 by veterans seeking

support for post-traumatic stress disorder related to military sexual trauma, according to the department.

But investigators estimated that the VA failed to follow procedure when processing 1,300 of the 2,700 claims that were denied during a review period that spanned between April and September of 2017.



The report concluded that "multiple factors led to the improper processing and denial of (military sexual trauma)-related claims" during that time, including: "a lack of reviewers' specialization and no additional level of review, discontinued special focus reviews, and inadequate training."

"Incomplete processing may lead to inaccurate claims decisions and psychological harm to (military sexual trauma) victims," the report noted.

While the issue of sexual assault in the military has been widely reported for years, the momentum of the #MeToo movement has prompted a renewed effort for transparency within the armed services.

The Pentagon has said that it remains committed to addressing the issue of sexual assault and harassment within the ranks as survivors demand accountability from military leadership -- but encouraging victims to come forward and report sexually violent crimes remains a major challenge.

More than 5,200 service members reported a sexual assault in 2017 for "an incident that occurred during their military service, an increase of about 10 percent from the previous year," Tuesday's report said.

"However, VA is aware that because of the nature of military sexual trauma ... stressors, it is often difficult for a victim to report or document the event when it occurs," the report stated.

"As a result, if the (military sexual trauma) leads to PTSD, it is often difficult for victims of (military sexual trauma) to produce the required evidence to support the occurrence of the reported assault," it said.

When asked for comment, a VA spokesperson referred CNN to the department's official response within the report which states it "concur[s] with the findings" and outlines the implementation of procedural requirements intended to "further ensure the quality of all (military sexual trauma)-related claims."

In a subsequent statement provided to CNN, VA spokesperson Curtis Cashour said, "VA appreciates the inspector general's oversight and concurs or concurs in principle with each of the IG's six recommendations, which the department will begin implementing right away."

“We know this is an area where the department can improve. That’s why VA has required all of its claims processors to take MST training and pledged to review each and every denied MST-related claim decided between October 1, 2016, and June 30, 2018,” Cashour added.

“If mistakes were made, we will fix them in order to ensure affected Veterans are getting all of the support, benefits and services they have earned,” he said.

*From The Wall Street Journal*

## Hundreds of Thousands of Veterans’ Appeals Dragged Out by Huge Backlog



Hundreds of thousands of veterans face year’s long delays in their appeals of disability rulings because of a backlog of cases choking the Department of Veterans Affairs, but a new round of efforts aims to improve and speed up

the claims-and-appeals process.

This backlog causes a number of problems, according to the department’s inspector general and veterans’ advocates, as well as VA statistics. Rushed rulings on initial claims can be riddled with errors. Veterans who appeal their cases typically wait between three and seven years for resolutions to their appeals, according to the Government Accountability Office. An inspector general report also found that one in 14 veterans dies while awaiting a decision on their disability claim appeal.

The appeals system remains “horribly flawed,” said Chief Judge Robert Davis, the top judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, the independent federal court that oversees and reviews rulings from the VA’s internal appeals board. The pressure to deal with a heavy backlog of disability claims “contributes to poor decision making,” he said in an interview.

As pending claims have fallen in number, pending appeals have remained fairly steady, frustrating veterans.

VA officials say they have worked hard to process disability claims—and appeals to those claims—faster. The department in recent years has added funding and personnel and has invested in technology to increase its efficiency.

Last year, President Trump signed the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017, which will go into full effect next year and will create rapid-appeals lanes to speed the process.

The VA is on track to process a record 80,000 appeals in 2018, said spokesman Curt Cashour, thanks to the increased funding and personnel. As of August 2018, the appeals backlog stood at about 238,000, according to VA data.

A program designed by the U.S. Digital Service, a government tech incubator, also streamlined the process, reduced clerical errors and allowed judges to more quickly read a case.

“VA believes veterans are waiting too long for appellate decisions,” said Mr. Cashour. He said the department expects the appeals modernization law will make needed changes to the system, but others remain skeptical.

“We are anxiously awaiting to see if the appeals modernization act will make any lasting change and provide any lasting benefits for veterans,” said Judge Davis. “I’m not sure that’s the case.”

The disability-claim process can be complicated. Many veterans claim multiple injuries, each of which requires its own decision. As a veteran’s case works its way through the system, claimed disabilities can worsen or change and require new documentation and medical examinations. The outcome of the appeal can determine the amount of disability payments and access to future treatment.

A disability claim is first decided at one of 56 regional offices, and the VA decided 1.4 million claims for disability benefits in 2017. Of those claims, more than 90,000 cases were formally appealed to a VA board. In those cases, the board found flaws or requested more information for 57%, VA statistics show.

Judge Davis said his higher-level veterans appeals court hears about 4,000 cases a year, and of those, about 3,000 are found to have some sort of error, problem or need for more information.

Employees are rewarded for speed rather than quality, said Bart Stitchman, executive director of National Veterans Legal Services Program, a nonprofit that focuses on VA benefits issues.

“Time pressure to get claims out the door causes them to cut corners,” he said of the regional VA offices that handle disability claims. “If the veteran is tenacious, the cutting of the corner will finally be caught, but a lot of veterans don’t appeal.”

VA officials dispute the assertion that employees are taking shortcuts or that veterans are being harmed. But the VA’s Office of Inspector General concluded in a report this year that the department “did not dedicate sufficient resources to timely address appeals” as it pushed initial claims through the system faster.

An inspector-general report recently issued showed that a 2016 procedure change intended to streamline the claims process ended up leaving complex claims being decided by undertrained VA employees.

Veterans say the process is confusing, and they often have to turn to lawyers for help navigating the process.

## Gold Star Mothers' Day September 30, 2018



*She stands alone in the crowd, white hair, white hat, gold star, and a tear. The great black granite wall reflects her white dress.*

*Between the names, your names, her name, she sees you as you were. Sons and daughters of our pride, and love, gone off to war.*

*In her tears I see the pain she bears in your memory. The tears melt the years and she sees your face, proud and strong, certain of the future as only the young can be and she remembers; Your smile. The brave laugh you gave when she said, "Be careful."*

*She remembers the proud refusal of the fear you held in that parting. She feels anew the pain in the place of crosses where she watched as they laid your shattered body to rest among the bones of your father's comrades and your generation's sacrifice.*

*In her hand she clutches the medal that you earned with your blood. She tries to think of those you saved and tries not to blame them.*

## 50 Years Ago

**September 1** - WILLIAM A. JONES, III MEDAL OF HONOR.

**September 18** - DEWAYNE T. WILLIAMS, 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 October 2018 newsletter is 21 September 2018. Due to space availability, the editor reserves the right to include or not include photos for a given month.

*This newsletter printed by*

***The Print Hub***

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## 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. 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

*And don't forget, your donations are tax deductible.*



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