

## Inside This Issue

*Chapter/State News*

*POW/MIA News*

*At The Capitol*

*On The Hill*

*VA Affairs News*

*From the Service Rep's desk*

*Vietnam Troop Helmets*

*50 Years Ago*

*Helping Hands for our Vets*

*Extracted from Military.com*

## VA Ready to Roll out Mission Act Program on June 6: But Expect Glitches



The Department of Veterans Affairs is on track for the June 6 rollout of the transformative Mission Act program to expand private health care choices, but initial glitches should be expected, officials said. Officials stressed that the benefits of a system giving veterans more say in their own health care outweigh any drawbacks.

“We understand there might be issues” with getting the system in gear and

bringing veterans, and administrators, up to speed on how to use it, said one of three VA officials who spoke on background in a conference call with reporters.

However, the officials stressed that the benefits of a system giving veterans more say in their own health care outweigh any drawbacks.

The new program, officially called the “Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act,” will replace the previous Choice program that veterans and private doctors complained was riddled with inefficiencies in administration and delays in payments. About 70% of veterans currently have their own health insurance, either through Medicare, Medicaid or their employers. The officials said they expect a spike in the number of veterans using health care through the VA under the new program.

One of the problems with Choice was lack of funding, forcing the VA to go back to Congress periodically for additional appropriations, the officials said.

This year, the VA has a budget that's “the highest it's ever been,” topping \$200 billion for the first time, one of the officials said. But a second official did not rule having to go back to Congress again for additional funding if unforeseen problems arise.

About 70% of veterans currently have their own health insurance, either through Medicare, Medicaid or their employers. The officials said they expect a spike in the number of veterans using health care through the VA under the new program. However, they also said they expect the ratio of veterans who choose private health care through the VA -- about 30% -- to remain the same.

Under the new access standards going into effect June 6, veterans can see a community provider if they've been waiting for more than 20 days for primary or mental health care, or face a 30-minute drive to the nearest VA facility.

## Meetings

The Chapter 120 membership meeting will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Machinists Union Hall, 357 Main St., East Hartford.

The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, June 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*

**Lawrence F. Tagnon – Chapter 120 Life Member**



Lawrence Frederic Tagnon, husband of Ginette (Samson) Tagnon, passed away, Sunday, April 14, 2019 at Middlesex Hospital surrounded by his loving family. In addition to his wife, Larry is survived by his children, Johanne L. Tagnon-Gregor and Eric H. Tagnon, son in law, Jonathon J. Gregor, grandchildren Jordan P. Gregor and Jolene B. Tagnon. He was predeceased by his grandson, Ryan C. Maudsley. He is also survived by his sisters Judith Little of IA and Patricia Turnquist of CA and brothers in law, nieces and nephews in Quebec, Canada. Besides his family, he leaves many beloved friends, the Jones and the DeFrance families and Cheryl and Gary Wolcott.

Larry was born in San Francisco, CA, November 1, 1938 at St. Francis Hospital. He spent his earlier years of life in Belgium and Canada to learn French. Following high school, he joined the US Navy and served for ten years where he was stationed overseas and in the US before moving to Connecticut. He joined the Air National Guard and retired as a Master Sergeant after twenty four years of service. He then went on to work for the State of Connecticut for seventeen years.

He was an avid fan of camping and other outdoor activities. He was a Scout Master for Troop 10 in Middletown, CT for many years and a member of American Legion Post 75. He traveled to Quebec City, Canada often to see family and enjoy the country he loved so much. Following his retirement, he joined the Knights of Columbus, Council #3 and became Financial Secretary, Grand Knight and a Faithful Trustee of McFarland Assembly 98- 4th Degree.

A Memorial Mass was held at Saint Francis of Assisi Church, 10 Elm Street, Middletown on May 14th at 11 a.m. There were no calling hours. Burial was at the convenience of the family. Memorial donations may be made in Larry's name to CT Trees of Honor Memorial, Veteran's Park, Middletown, CT 06457 [www.cttreesofhonor.com](http://www.cttreesofhonor.com).



**Birthday Wishes**

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

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Moe Armstrong</i>         | <i>Dorothy Barry</i>         |
| <i>Jerome Blum</i>           | <i>Bo J. De Alba</i>         |
| <i>Robert Dowding</i>        | <i>Gary M. Gazdzicki Sr.</i> |
| <i>Joseph S. Hachey</i>      | <i>Halsey F. Hesse</i>       |
| <i>Donald Kelly</i>          | <i>Harry Kiernan</i>         |
| <i>Leland E. Moulton</i>     | <i>Jeff Nielsen</i>          |
| <i>James M. Parent</i>       | <i>Ronald Pariseau</i>       |
| <i>Arthur N. Steben, Jr.</i> | <i>Robert Stepanian</i>      |
| <i>George W. Washington</i>  |                              |

**Happy Birthday!**

**VVA Membership Change**

On October 20, 2018, VVA's National Board of Directors passed a motion to have one class of membership: Life membership. All active and pending three-year members have been converted to life members. This change was reflected on the October 2018 membership roster. After October 31, 2018, all dues payments received for one-year membership will be refunded along with instructions for renewing as a life member. Active one-year members will remain active until their current term expires and are invited to renew as life members thereafter. The link to the membership renewal application is <https://vva.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/VVA-Member-EZ-Renewal-Form.pdf>

## Shad Derby/Armed Forces Day Parade



Chapter 120 marched in the Shad Derby/Armed Forces Day Parade in Windsor CT on May 18, 2019.



Chapter 120 President Frank Mello rode behind our members at the Shad Derby/Armed Forces Day Parade.

### POW/MIA News

## National POW/MIA Flag Act



On May 2, the Senate passed S 693 (National POW/MIA Flag Act) with unanimous consent. The House bill HR 1579 is still in subcommittee. Please reach out to your elected representatives and urge them to cosponsor and support the passage of H.R 1579 to bring greater visibility to the POW/MIA mission on a daily basis nationwide. In the Connecticut delegation, only Rep John Larson has co-sponsored this House bill. Please

call our other Representatives to urge them to support this bill.

The bills change the days on which the POW/MIA flag is required to be displayed at specified locations to all days on which the U.S. flag is displayed. (Current law requires the POW/MIA flag to be displayed only on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans Day).

## At The Capitol



## Another lack luster year for Veterans' Legislation

With only a few days left in the 2019 legislative session, it remains doubtful that even a hand full of veterans' related bills will make it to the Governor for signature. And the bills that do make it to the Governor's desk will most likely be the typical "feel good" pieces of legislation that politicians will brag about when election time comes.

### Passed in House, waiting Senate action

**HB 7064** - AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL VETERANS' REPRESENTATIVES. To change "veterans' service contact person" to "municipal veterans' representative" and to permit volunteers to serve as such representatives.

**HB 7244** - AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS HAVING DISABILITY RATINGS. To increase the property tax exemption amounts for veterans having a disability rating and require the filing of a death certificate with the town assessor to continue such exemption for a surviving spouse or minor children after the veteran's death.

**HB 7248** - AN ACT CONCERNING IN-STATE STUDENT STATUS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES. To allow spouses and children of certain members of the armed forces to be deemed in-state students for the purposes of certain tuition charges.

**HB 7249** - AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING IN HEALTH CONDITIONS COMMON TO FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES. To require emergency medical services personnel to receive training in health conditions common to former members of the armed forces.

### Passed in Senate, waiting House action

**SB 777** - AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF VETERANS' TAX ABATEMENTS. To study tax abatements available to veterans in this state.

**SB 800** - AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MEDAL OF MERIT FOR CIVILIANS. To establish a medal of merit for civilians.

**SB 861** - AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF "SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR" AND STATE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS' SERVICES. To redefine "service in time of war" and to remove a two-year residency requirement for certain veterans' services.

**SB 863** - AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL. To prohibit an employer from discriminating against, disciplining or discharging an employee because the employee is a member of the civil air patrol or is absent from work under certain circumstances as a member of the civil air patrol.

**SB 951 - AN ACT CONCERNING VETERAN ENROLLMENT IN CERTAIN ALTERNATE ROUTE TO CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS.** To require fifteen per cent of available seats in certain alternate route to certification programs to be reserved for veterans.

**SB 953 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CYBER TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS.** To establish a cyber technology competition for certain students.

**On The Hill**



*From Military.com*

**House Unanimously Passes Blue Water Navy Bill, But Not Everyone Is Happy**

The House of Representatives again unanimously passed a bill on May 14 that would extend Department of Veterans Affairs' benefits to sailors assigned to U.S. Navy ships during the Vietnam War who have illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure.

But while eight major veterans' organizations support the legislation, a few smaller groups that have fought for decades for these "Blue Water Navy" veterans to receive health care and disability compensation aren't

excited about its scope.

The House voted 410-0 to advance the bill, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, or H.R. 299. Last June, the vote was 382-0 to include sailors with diseases considered to be related to exposure to the herbicide among those Vietnam veterans already receiving disability compensation and health coverage.

The measure died in the Senate in December, however, over questions about whether these veterans actually were exposed and about the cost of covering them.

Veterans diagnosed with diseases that automatically qualify for Agent Orange-related benefits say they are ill because ship desalination units used contaminated water; the ships were also used to transport the herbicide.

In January, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled in favor of these veterans, giving them the opportunity to apply for VA benefits.

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said in March he would recommend against the Justice Department appealing the ruling. But the U.S. Supreme Court on April 29 approved a request from the Department of Justice to extend the deadline for filing an appeal to May 29.

House lawmakers said the new legislation is needed to ensure that veterans receive their benefits in the event the case, *Procopio v. Wilkie*, gets dragged out.

"As many of you know all too well, it has been a long, hard-fought battle to secure these benefits," House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Rep. Mark Takano, D-California, said just before the vote. "In the process, we've let Blue Water Navy veterans and their survivors experience immeasurable pain and grief due to the spraying of 12.1 million gallons of highly toxic Agent Orange in Vietnam during the war."

"Five hundred and twenty of us are dying every day and, if we don't do something soon, there aren't going to be many of us left," said Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tennessee, a Vietnam-era veteran who serves as the ranking member on the committee.

"For decades, tens of thousands of veterans, their families and survivors have been denied their earned benefits. While it is long past due, it is time that we correct the injustice done to Blue Water Navy veterans and provide protection of the Procopio decision by passing H.R. 299," leaders of the eight organizations wrote to the committee on May 13.

But several small organizations that supported Procopio and fought for the bill aren't happy with certain aspects of it. The bill includes specific grid coordinates that delineate the offshore areas offshore that would be covered.

Supporters say these grid coordinates would actually expand coverage beyond 12 nautical miles in some locations, "particularly the Mekong Delta."

But John Wells, an attorney in the Procopio case and director of Military-Veterans Advocacy, said the wording will "limit the scope of Procopio and potentially exclude tens of thousands of veterans for whom we might otherwise have been able to get coverage."

"The wording of this bill would effectively limit waters offshore to the territorial sea. ... International law says the territorial sea runs the same points that are in the bill but also leaves open waters offshore further out," he said. "I just reviewed a case today that was a mile and a half outside the covered area. If the bill passes, we can't cover them."

Wells said his organization, as well as the Blue Water Navy Association, supports the language of a bill introduced in the Senate, S. 1195, by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-New York, that would cover the maximum amount of territory under international law.

Takano said the coordinates are in the bill to ensure that the VA doesn't narrow the scope of the coverage. "The VA has a track record of narrowly interpreting decisions to their benefit. We wanted to make sure we were very specific."

Takano and Roe said they'd like to see the bill passed before Memorial Day, May 27, 2019.

"I would urge the Senate not to wait to see what Justice decides to do," Takano said.

"We codify this in law, then [VA] has their marching orders," Roe said.

### *Veterans Affairs News*

## **VA now transplanting kidneys that are positive for hepatitis C**

Underscoring its mission of improving the quality of life for Veterans, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently began offering a new option to patients awaiting kidney transplants: organs that are positive for hepatitis (hep) C.

In early March, a team from the Iowa City VA (ICVA) Health Care System (HCS) successfully transplanted hep C positive kidneys into four Veteran patients, then immediately began the treatment process to cure the viral infection that causes liver inflammation.

"At VA, we have the ability to quickly adopt medical advancements almost as soon as they are reported in medical literature," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "Providing high quality procedures, such as innovative organ transplants, illustrates the good stewardship of our resources and VA's commitment to Veterans and the American people."

Dr. Daniel Katz, transplant surgery director for the ICVAHCS, said VA was quick to understand the bigger picture and the long-term, cost-savings potential of the new procedure.

"The high cost of hep C treatment may hinder rapid adoption of this practice in the private sector, where the transplant center may not be reimbursed for the hep C treatment," Katz said. "Even with the hep C treatment, though, there will be cost savings over time by removing patients from dialysis."

The ICVAHCS transplant team has successfully conducted more than 475 organ transplants and is on track to reach 500 in 2020. The hepatitis C virus (HCV) is the most common bloodborne disease in the United States. VA has treated and cured more HCV patients than any other HCS in the country, and is on track to eliminate the HCV in about a month in all Veterans willing and able to be treated. As of March 3, nearly 116,000 Veterans started all-oral hep C medications in VA, of which 96,654 Veterans completed treatment and have been cured.

Part of a VA treatment program, U.S. Navy Veteran Jack Jones was cured of hep C more than two years ago. But Jones still needed a new kidney.

On March 8, the ICVAHCS offered to transplant his kidney, then cure the hep C that it carried through a similar process that had cured him before. Jones jumped at the chance, and his transplant was successfully completed the next day.

"I would recommend this [procedure], and the VA, to anyone," said Jones, who is now back to his regular life at home in Asheville, North Carolina.

Other VA Transplant Centers also provide Veterans the opportunity to choose to receive hep C positive donor organs with post-transplant treatment. Participating centers include William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin (liver and heart); Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia (heart); VA Portland Health Care System in Portland, Oregon (liver); Tennessee Valley Healthcare System in Nashville, Tennessee (liver and heart); and VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (liver).

VA leads the country in hepatitis screening, testing, treatment, research and prevention. For more information about VA's research in this area, visit <https://www.hepatitis.va.gov/>.

*From Nextgov*

## **VA To Codify Customer Experience as Part of Core Values**

The Veterans Affairs Department has been working to improve the experience it delivers to its customers—America's veterans—and is set to enshrine a set of customer experience principles as part of its core values and ethics.

On Monday May 20, the Office of Management and Budget published a final rule in the Federal Register officially adding the principles to the VA Core Values and Characteristics section of the Code of Federal Regulations, or CFR. The section will be renamed to reflect this, as well, with the new title "Core Values, Characteristics and Customer Experience Principles of the Department."

"Maintaining a sustained organizational commitment to, and institutionalized focus on, the voice of the customer is a critical component of modernizing VA to meet the needs and expectations of veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors," according to the rule change set for publication Monday. "Codifying these principles will ensure that they receive the proper emphasis at all levels within VA, are clearly understood by the workforce, and, most importantly, become an enduring part of the VA culture."

While the emphasis on customer service has been pervading the department, Lynda Davis, chief of the Veterans Experience Office, noted priorities could change under future leaders and administrations.

"The commitment to a culture of ensuring the highest experience for our customers—who are our veterans, families, caregivers and survivors—that has to be permanent. That can't be changing," Davis told Nextgov.

The idea to include customer experience as a core department value came from Deputy Chief Veterans Experience Officer Barbara Morton, according to her boss.

"It was Barbara's idea to ensure that [Secretary Robert Wilkie's] vision of a sustained commitment to customer experience in the

VA was hardwired into everything we did in terms of our policy and practices,” Davis said, noting the CFR is “the fundamental, permanent backbone of the department.”

The added sections centralize the department’s efforts to improve customer experience around three legs:

- **Ease:** VA will make access to VA care, benefits, and memorial services smooth and easy.
- **Effectiveness:** VA will deliver care, benefits and memorial services to the customer’s satisfaction.
- **Emotion:** VA will deliver care, benefits, and memorial services in a manner that makes customers feel honored and valued in their interactions with VA. VA will use customer experience data and insights in strategy development and decision-making to ensure that the voice of veterans, servicemembers, their families, caregivers, and survivors inform how VA delivers care, benefits, and memorial services.

The “3 Es of CX” is a framework developed by the research firm Forrester, Davis said, calling it “the best way to measure trust that industry has established.”

Forrester’s principal analyst for customer experience, Rick Parrish, said he was encouraged by the pending regulation change, especially the focus on the third E.

“Unfortunately, government organizations discuss emotion very rarely. Instead, they focus on Ease and Effectiveness,” he said. “But no matter how easy and effective a customer experience is, it won’t be great unless it leaves customers feeling the way they need to feel.”

Specifically, Parrish said the use of specific words like “honored and valued” show the department is empathizing with its customers.

“Too often, even private-sector companies that focus on emotion simply pick emotion words like ‘delight’ or ‘happy’ or ‘joy’ without really studying which emotions are most important to CX quality,” he said. “It looks to me like VA has avoided that pitfall and chosen specific emotions that it knows will create great CX.”

**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)

**From the Service Rep’s Desk**



**VA Health Care Options for Veterans under the MISSION Act**

**COMMUNITY CARE ELIGIBILITY**

You may be able to receive care from a provider in your local community if you meet specific criteria. Qualification depends upon your individual healthcare needs or circumstances. It is important to remember, though, that you must call to receive approval from VA before going to a community provider for most services.

Under the MISSION Act, there are six different eligibility criteria for community care. Meeting any one of these criteria for the specific care you need means you are eligible to receive the specific care you need either through direct VA care or approved by VA in the community.

- Specific service you need is not provided by VA
- Residence in a U.S. state or territory that does not have a full-service VA medical facility
- “Grandfathered” 40-mile eligibility continuing from the Choice program
- Specific care you need is not available within established access standards
- You and your care team decide it is in your best medical interest to receive the specific care you need in the community
- VA medical service line delivering the specific care you need is not meeting VA’s quality standards

**URGENT CARE**

VA will offer an urgent care benefit for minor injuries and illnesses, such as sprains, minor burns and skin infections. You must be enrolled in the VA health care system and have received care from VA within the last two years to be eligible for this benefit. Eligible Veterans can seek this care from an urgent care provider that is part of VA’s community provider network. Not all urgent care locations are in VA’s network, and it is important to make sure a location is in VA’s network before you seek care in order to avoid unnecessary bills. You may be charged a copayment for urgent care, which is billed separately by VA after you receive care. To find an urgent care provider in VA’s network, you can use VA’s provider locator on [VA.gov](http://VA.gov) or call your local VA medical facility.

**COPAYMENTS AND INSURANCE**

Like other health care providers, VA may charge a copayment for health care that is not tied to your service connection. The copayment fee is based on the type of health care service you receive and your financial situation. This care can be provided directly by VA or through a community provider. For treatment related to a non-service-connected condition, VA may bill your health insurance for medical care, supplies and prescriptions. As a result of the VA MISSION Act, VA no longer requires permission to bill your health insurance carrier for health care

related to a sensitive diagnosis. If you would like to submit a request to restrict this process, please contact your local VA facility's privacy officer. Your private health coverage (such as Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE, Indian Health Service, and tribal health) can work with VA. To learn more, visit [VA.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/va-health-care-and-other-insurance/](http://VA.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/va-health-care-and-other-insurance/).

**COMPLAINT AND APPEALS PROCESS**

VA is committed to delivering an excellent experience of care every time. We know that concerns arise, and we're here for you. The first point of contact to help resolve your concern is your health care team. If the issue cannot be resolved with your health care team, please contact the Patient Advocate at your facility. A Patient Advocate can help you file an appeal if you disagree with a decision made about your VA health care.

**MORE INFORMATION**

Visit [VA.gov](http://VA.gov) for more information and to apply for VA care. You can access your VA Welcome Kit at [VA.gov/welcome-kit](http://VA.gov/welcome-kit). If you do not have access to the internet, contact your local VA medical facility.

*From Military.com*

**Why Troops in Vietnam Could Write on Their Helmets**



One of the enduring images of the Vietnam War is one of the Army or Marine Corps' infantry troops, sitting out in the jungle or around a rice paddy, wearing a helmet covered in graffiti. Maybe it's ticking off the number of days he's been in country. Maybe it's announcing to the world that the wearer is a bad motherf\*cker. Or it

could be simply the troop's blood type and drug allergies.

Truth be told, troops in Vietnam didn't "get away" with writing on their issued helmets, and neither do the troops who do it today.

As one might imagine, it would be considered counter to good order and discipline to write on one's helmet cover. The helmet is, after all, a uniform item, usually owned by the government. To deface it would be defacing government property while at the same time violating the rules of wearing your uniform properly. But none of this ever prevented the troops from doing it.

Some troops in Vietnam only ever wore their helmets when doing perimeter duty or moving materiel from one area to another and didn't really have the downtime with their helmets to make any sort of writing on it. For those who did write on their helmet covers, they'll tell you there were more important things happening than worrying about what was written on their helmets.

Of course, the difference between troops back then and troops today is that yesteryear's combat troops could be draftees, which means they're not the professional army the United States uses as the backbone of its military power.

Even so, those who wrote on their helmets were not allowed to wear the helmet with its cover on while in the rear. The MPs would make sure of that. In any case, soldiers were required to wear a cap while in the rear, and the helmet would go back on only when they went back into the sh\*t, where no one cared what they wrote anyway.

Vietnam veterans say the graffiti depended on which outfit you were moving with, and was usually okay as long as it didn't defeat the purpose of camouflage in combat. Others say that as long as the graffiti didn't disparage the Army, the United States, or the chain of command, it didn't matter what you wrote or how you wrote it.

If a new NCO or lieutenant was coming into Vietnam for the first time and all he cared about was helmet covers, his troops would call him "dinky dao" anyway.

**50 Years Ago**

**June 1** - NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES FOCUSES ATTENTION ON POWS. Incorporated in May 1970 as the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Mission Southeast Asia, the National League is by far the largest and most widely representative of the POW/MIA family organizations and would be successful in focusing public attention on the prisoner issue.

**June 2** - ROBERT LESLIE POXON, MEDAL OF HONOR

**June 3** - AUSTRALIAN AND AMERICAN SHIPS FATALLY COLLIDE IN EXERCISE. During a SEATO exercise in the South China Sea, HMAS Melbourne (R21) and the USS Frank E. Evans collide, killing 74 Frank E. Evans Sailors.

**June 13** - AIR NATIONAL GUARD RETURNS HOME. The last of seven Air National Guard units in South East Asia returned to the United States. Air Guard units had supported Military Airlift Command.

**June 15** - THOMAS G. KELLEY, MEDAL OF HONOR

**June 27** - HAMMETT L. BOWEN, JR., MEDAL OF HONOR



**THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE !**

## 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 July/August 2019 newsletter is 19 July 2019. 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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