

CONNECTION



Connecticut Chapter 120

Greater Hartford
Over 35 Years of Service to Veterans

September 2019

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Meetings

The Chapter 120 membership meeting will be held on Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Machinists Union Hall, 357 Main St., East Hartford.

The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, September 26 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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NEVER FORGOTTEN
* THEIR SACRIFICE * OUR MISSION *
EVER ONWARD

**NATIONAL POW/MIA
RECOGNITION DAY**
SEPTEMBER 20, 2019
WWW.DPAA.MIL

The poster features a large silhouette of a soldier's head in profile, facing right. In the background, there is a watchtower with a soldier inside, and a landscape with mountains and a starburst light. In the foreground, two silhouettes of soldiers stand on a hill, one holding a torch. The text is in bold, blue and white fonts. The bottom of the poster includes the Department of Defense seal and the Department of Army seal.

CHAPTER 120 OFFICE 568-9212**Board of Directors**

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Vet Centers

Hartford (Area Code 860)	563-8800
New Haven (Area Code 203)	932-9899
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**Peter Mazzadra, Chapter 120 Member**

Peter Mazzadra, 72, of East Hartford, son of the late Anita (Damaschi) and Aldo Mazzadra, passed away peacefully Tuesday, August 13, 2019. Peter was born in Hartford and moved to East Hartford where he lived and raised his family for 42 years. After graduating from high school, Peter enlisted in the Army and was an active member of the North Western Veterans Club in New Britain. Peter was an employee of the "phone company". During his tenure, he saw the transition from Bell System to SNET, ultimately retiring from AT&T, after 45 years of service. Peter held several positions with the Union, Divisions Vice President on the Executive Board, Hartford Plant Local President and was most proud of representing his fellow telephone workers as the Union Steward and Chief Steward in Hartford.

Peter enjoyed watching sports. He was an avid fan of the Red Sox, the Patriots, and UCONN mens' and womens' basketball. Never one to miss a good meal, or the chance to talk about the next one, Peter always loved when the family gathered for a meal. He loved the ocean, boats, his workshop, his tractor, trailer, and Papa's BIG RED TRUCK. Peter's memory will be cherished and kept alive by all who loved him. Especially his beloved son Adam P. and daughter Sarah D. Mazzadra. In addition, Peter is survived by the love of his life of forty-eight years, Sandra F. Mazzadra, his daughter-in-law Diane Mazzadra, two loving grandchildren Brendt and Aaden Mazzadra, whom he adored; they were his pride and joy, and Sarah's partner, Michael Lane. Peter also leaves behind his loving siblings and their spouses. David and Patti Mazzadra of Marietta, GA, Cynthia and Robert Rosa of East Hartford, Aldo and Joyce Mazzadra of Tolland, his many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, co-workers, union brothers and Sandra's parents Berj and Diana Tashjian, and her brother, Matthew Tashjian. The family thanks all of Peter's caregivers, especially his doctors, nurses and the staff of Hartford Hospital. There was a special place in his heart, for everyone he knew.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10 am, Saturday, August 17, 2019 in St Junipero Serra Parish at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 673 Ellington Road South Windsor. Burial with full military honors followed at Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford. In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made to the Wounded Warriors Project, PO Box 750516, Topeka, KS 66675-8516.

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>	

Happy Birthday!

Officers and Directors elected at the VVA National Convention:

OFFICERS: John Rowan, President; Thomas Burke, Vice President; Bill Meeks, Jr., Secretary; John J McManus, Treasurer

AT-LARGE DIRECTORS: Dottie Barickman, Richard DeLong, Gumersindo Gomez, Dennis Howland, John Margowski, Felix Pete Peterson, Dave Simmons, Dan Stenvold, Kerwin Stone, and Sandie Wilson.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS: Region 1 Director: Skip Hochreich, Region 2 Director: Ted Wilkinson, Region 3 Director: Sara McVicker, Region 4 Director: Spence Davis, Region 5 Director: John Riling III, Region 6 Director: Bob Grabinski, Region 7 Director: Dennis Andras, Region 8 Director: Francisco F. Ivarra, and Region 9 Director: Dick Southern.

Stand Down 2019

Stand Down will be held on Friday, September 20, 2019 from 8:00am - 2:00pm. Chapter 120 donated \$500 and the State Council donated \$500 to help with Stand Down 2019.

Court Orders in Favor of Camp Lejeune Veterans

In a court order issued August 14, U.S. District Judge Bolden has ordered the VA to provide the plaintiffs the previously redacted names of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who furnished opinions concerning service connection disabilities of veterans exposed by toxins in the well waters at Camp Lejeune. This comes after three and a half years of repeated delays and court noncompliance by the VA.

On December 7, 2015, Connecticut State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America, The Few, The Proud, The Forgotten, and the Vietnam Veterans of America submitted a request to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to obtain information about "the development, creation, procedures, objectives, and implementation of the VA's Camp Lejeune SME program. The FOIA request was submitted because of inconsistencies in approval rates for service connection after the SME program was initiated. It was suspected (and reported by the media) that many SMEs were not qualified to furnish opinions for the specific disabilities involved.

After the Court initially ordered the VA to provide the information requested, the VA improperly redacted the names of SMEs in their submission. This was seen as an obstacle in determining individual SME qualifications.

The Court gave the VA until September 20, 2019 to provide the un-redacted names of SMEs in the program.

Between 1953 and 1987, nearly one million Marines, sailors, civilian employees, and military family members aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune unknowingly drank, cooked with, and bathed in contaminated water. The water at Camp Lejeune caused serious illnesses, including bladder cancer, leukemia, kidney cancer, and liver cancer.

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 2019 newsletter is 20 September 2019. Due to space availability, the editor reserves the right to include or not include photos for a given month.

POW/MIA News



From NPR

Vietnam Veteran's Remains Flown Home By His Son

After 52 years, the remains of Air Force pilot Col. Roy Knight Jr., who was shot down in 1967 during the Vietnam War, have finally come home.

And the plane that carried them, a commercial jet owned by Southwest Airlines, was flown by Knight's son Bryan Knight, a captain with the airline.

The remains arrived Thursday August 8 in a flag-draped casket at Dallas Love Field — the same airport where Col. Knight said goodbye to his then-5-year-old son.

"When I first got the call, it was almost surreal," Bryan Knight told Southwest Airlines. "I really didn't think it would ever happen. Wow, you know, he's really coming home. We're going to be able to bring him back, and we're going to have a place where we can honor him."

Roy Knight Jr. was shot down in May 1967 while pursuing a target on the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos in his A-1 Sky Raider.

Military officials say the crash site was searched several times since the 1990s. Remains linked to Knight finally surfaced this year and were identified in June.



Col. Roy Knight Jr.,

Knight's obituary describes him as "a devoted and loving son, brother, husband, father and friend" who was well-liked by those with whom he served. Born in 1931, he graduated high school in 1947 and enlisted in the Air Force days after his 17th birthday. He served as a clerk typist in the Philippines, Japan and Korea before beginning pilot training in 1957. He became a fighter pilot, serving in Germany and France before returning home in 1963 to work as an instructor pilot.

In 1966, Knight received orders to deploy to Southeast Asia. He reported to the 602nd Fighter Squadron at Udon Royal Thai Air Force Base in January 1967, and flew combat missions almost daily until being shot down May 19.

He was described as “missing in action” until 1974, when he was listed as “killed in action.” He has been posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart and six Air medals.

Canada's Global News' Washington Bureau Chief Jackson Proskow witnessed the casket’s unloading. Proskow was on his way home from El Paso, where he had been covering the deadly shooting that took place last weekend. He described an emotional scene; a moment of goodness in a difficult week.

“Airports rarely see moments of quiet — but for a few brief minutes, Dallas Love Field fell absolutely silent,” he wrote. Onlookers stood silently at the window, some wiping away tears. “As Flight 1220 from Oakland taxied toward the jet bridge, two airport firetrucks provided a somber water salute while the ground crew stood in formation.”

“It was peaceful, it was beautiful and it was a privilege to watch,” he added.

Knight's service with full military honors was held on Saturday August 10, 50 miles west of Dallas in Weatherford, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

On The Hill



From Military.com

Lawmakers Push for Quick Fix for Veterans Wrongly Billed for \$53M in Emergency Care

More than 30 Senate and House members from both parties pressed Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie on Monday August 12 for a quick fix to accounting errors that may have wrongly forced thousands of veterans to pay for more than \$50 million in treatment at non-VA emergency facilities.

In a letter to Wilkie, the bipartisan group referred to a report from the VA’s Office of Inspector General last week charging that the department may have wrongly billed about 17,400 veterans for at least \$53.3 million over a six-month period in 2017.

“Facing a medical emergency can be stressful for any patient; however, the financial toll on veterans when VA erroneously denies or rejects payment can also be devastating,” the letter states.

“Hospitals may send veterans’ emergency care bills to collection,” according to the letter. “Non-payment can bankrupt and destroy veterans’ credit histories,” and “these administrative errors can remain with veterans for the rest of their lives.”

The letter was sent by Sen. Jon Tester, D-Montana, ranking member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee; Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kansas, a member of the Senate committee; Rep. Mark Takano, D-California, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee; and Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tennessee, ranking member of the House committee.

They were joined by more than 30 other Republican and Democratic members of the House and Senate.

The IG’s report estimated “that if corrective actions are not taken, these errors could result in \$533 million in improper underpayments to claimants over five years” for care at non-VA emergency rooms.

In addition, the IG found that the VA failed to inform many veterans their claims had been rejected or denied, or of their right to appeal these decisions.

The IG’s 70-page report, titled “Non-VA Emergency Care Claims Inappropriately Denied and Rejected,” said the reimbursement issue rests with the VA’s Claims Adjudication and Reimbursement Directorate (CAR) in the VA’s Office of Community Care (OCC).

“This is not new territory for VA,” the letter to Wilkie states. It cites a 2014 report from the Government Accountability Office warning that the “VA’s weak oversight of emergency care claims adjudication could lead to inappropriate denial of claims.”

The lawmakers’ letter asks for “a thorough explanation of how and when” the VA will comply with the IG’s recommendations for a fix, and “how VA plans to re-adjudicate the approximately 17,400 veterans’ claims the OIG determined VA likely should have paid.”

Veterans Affairs News



VA Still Considering More Presumptive Disabilities

While Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) senior officials debate, and wrangle again, and again, and again, veterans are having to wait longer for a determination to be made as to when four (4) new presumptive disabilities will be added to the Agent Orange presumptive disabilities list.

Last March 2019, VA officials reported they may have a decision on adding the four new diseases to the list of Agent Orange presumptive benefits eligibility by the summer of 2019.

Here we are, five months later, and VA officials still haven't moved ahead with adding the new disabilities to the Agent Orange presumptive list.

Researchers from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine announced they had compiled "sufficient evidence" linking hypertension, bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson's-like symptoms with exposure to Agent Orange and other defoliants used in Vietnam and surrounding countries in the 1960s and 1970s. So far, VA officials remain perplexed about the validity of the data as it relates to exposure to Agent Orange.

The delay is the latest frustration for Vietnam veterans who are already unsettled by the VA's decision earlier this summer to postpone disability compensation related to "Blue Water" Navy veterans' cases until early January 2020.

According to VA officials, adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson's-like symptoms to the Agent Orange presumptive list would potentially benefit thousands of aging veterans, and, at the same time, adding a significant amount to VA's benefits expenses.

While not a lock, adding high blood pressure to the Agent Orange presumptive list of disabilities could further delay a decision simply because the VA's stance is high blood pressure is common in millions of older Americans, complicating whether it should be labeled a conclusive result of military service.

VA modifies smoke-free policies at health care facilities to include workers aimed at increasing the quality of care for Veterans



As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) commitment to a smoke-free health care environment for Veterans, in October, the department will extend its smoke-free policies to include employees at its health care facilities.

This follows the department's June 10 announcement of a new policy restricting smoking by patients, visitors, volunteers, contractors and vendors at its health care facilities. The integration of these two efforts guarantees a fully smoke-free environment for Veterans.

"This policy change is consistent with our mission to promote a healthy environment for patients, visitors and employees at our facilities and is an important element of improving our health care system," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "It will reduce the harmful effects of smoking, including exposure to second and third-hand smoke, as well as increase safety and reduce fire hazards caused by smoking."

The VA has collaborated with key stakeholders to update and recertify the employee policy to be consistent with department's commitment to Veterans and the community. Implementation of the employee smoke-free policy will be completed no later than January 2020 based on employee union-negotiated timelines.

The Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) smoke-free policy applies to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, any other combustion of tobacco and non-Federal Drug Administration approved electronic nicotine delivery systems, including but not limited to electronic or e-cigarettes, vape pens or e-cigars.

From Medical Press

Dementia tied to hormone-blocking prostate cancer treatment

Alzheimer's disease may be a risk for older prostate cancer patients given hormone-blocking treatment, a large, U.S. government-funded analysis found.

Previous evidence has been mixed on whether the treatment might be linked with mental decline. But experts say the new results stand out because they're from a respected national cancer database and the men were tracked for a long time—eight years on average.

Among 154,000 older patients, 13% who received hormone-blocking treatment developed Alzheimer's, compared with 9% who had other treatment or chose no therapy, the study found.

The risk for dementia from strokes or other causes was higher: It was diagnosed in 22% of those who got hormone-blocking treatment, versus 16% of the other patients.

The results, using perhaps one of the largest and most reliable databases, suggests there truly may be a connection, said Dr. Sumanta Pal, a prostate cancer expert with the American Society of Clinical Oncology. Pal was not involved in the study.

The analysis from University of Pennsylvania researchers was published in JAMA Network Open.

The results aren't proof but experts say they underscore the importance of discussing potential risks and benefits when choosing cancer treatment.

The researchers analyzed data from a National Cancer Institute database of cancer cases and treatment and covers almost 30% of the U.S. population. The study focused on men in their 70s, on average, with local or advanced prostate cancer diagnosed between 1996 and 2003. They were followed until 2013. Medicare records indicated dementia or Alzheimer's diagnosis.

Hormone-blocking treatment can include testes removal to reduce levels of testosterone, which fuels prostate cancer growth. But it more typically involves periodic drug injections or implants that achieve the same result.

Most U.S. men who receive this treatment are in their 70s or older. It's sometimes used in men who might not be healthy

enough to tolerate other cancer treatments including surgery to remove the prostate and radiation.

It's unclear how the treatment might be linked with mental decline. The researchers noted that it can lead to diabetes, which also has been linked with dementia—perhaps because blood vessel damage from diabetes can restrict blood flow to the brain. Hormone treatment also raises risks for heart disease and depression, which both have been linked with dementia.

Researcher Grace Lu-Yao of the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center in Philadelphia, said the potential dementia risks from hormone-blocking treatment may outweigh any benefit for younger, healthier patients with longer expected life spans.

While the study doesn't prove that the treatment causes dementia, she said, it is important to tell patients "because of the potential impact of Alzheimer's disease or dementia on the quality of life of patients and their family." She was not involved in the study.

From the Service Rep's Desk



UCONN Hearts and Minds Study

The "Hearts and Minds Study" is a UCONN research study about life experiences and personality characteristics impacting physical health, in partnership with grant funding from the National Institute and Health. It's meant to

specifically study the impacts of significant stress on veterans and first responders with the intention of advancing scientific knowledge and helping these groups.

Purpose: The broad purpose of our study is to better understand the mechanisms by which exposure to traumatic and stressful life events lead to physical health problems, with special attention to cardiovascular problems. As you likely know, those who served in the military or first responder roles are particularly at risk. The study is overseen by Dr. Crystal Park in the Department of Psychological Sciences at UCONN. I am the primary contact for the study.

Procedures: Interested individuals can first call/text our Google Voice number at (860) 420-2077 or email us at heartsandmindsstudy@gmail.com. They will be asked a few questions about mental and physical health history to determine eligibility. Individuals are notified about their eligibility status immediately or within a few business days. Eligible participants are scheduled for a one-time visit that takes about an hour and a half. Participation involves answering questionnaires, taking blood pressure and heart rate measurements, taking height and weight measurements, and completing a computer task. Participants will be compensated \$25 cash or Amazon gift card, their preference, and provided with a free blood pressure screening. Participation is completely confidential. We applied for a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes

of Health, which further protects participants' confidentiality, even in response to legal demands such as subpoenas.

Locations and Dates: We have 2 locations: UCONN Storrs (406 Babbidge Road, Storrs, CT 06269) and UCONN Hartford (10 Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06103). We have wide availability for appointments at both locations. At Storrs, participants can be seen any day of the week between 8 am-8 pm. At Hartford, participants can be seen on weekdays between 8 am-9pm and Saturdays between 9 am-4pm. Free or compensated parking will be provided.

50 Years Ago

September 4 - JAMES B. STOCKDALE, MEDAL OF HONOR

September 14 - DONALD SIDNEY SKIDGEL, MEDAL OF HONOR

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

From *Stars and Stripes* – By Sean Moores

Patriotism or protest? Army vet Jimi Hendrix had the 'most electrifying moment' at Woodstock



On August 18, 1969, former 101st Airborne soldier Jimi Hendrix, resplendent in bright red headband, white fringed shirt and bell-bottom blue jeans, unfurled what has been called the cultural moment of the 1960s when he played an incendiary instrumental version of “The Star-Spangled Banner” for remnants of the crowd at the Woodstock Music & Art Fair in Bethel, N.Y.

Hendrix died 13 months later, shortly after his amplified anthem received widespread exposure in the Academy Award-winning “Woodstock” documentary. He was 27. His legacy as a guitar god is unassailable, but 50 years after Woodstock a question remains: Was Hendrix’s performance of “The Star-Spangled Banner” patriotism, or was it protest?

The interpretation lies with the listener. At first, Hendrix adhered to the melody of the song, which had only been the official U.S. national anthem for 38 years. By the time he got to “the rockets’ red glare,” though, Hendrix unleashed the full force of his white Fender Stratocaster. The squeals of amplifier feedback and dive-bombing on his electric guitar’s vibrato bar have been said to evoke combat, fighter jets, artillery, ambulance sirens and, perhaps, riots in the streets. It also included a sequel into taps, the traditional bugle call played at military funerals.

Popular interpretation, rooted in the mythology of the ’60s, favors protest. It was a complicated time in American history. National pride swelled a month earlier when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, but there was widespread conflict. Civil rights struggles and changing sexual politics made frequent headlines, as did the Vietnam War. As Hendrix performed that 3-minute, 46-second version of the national anthem, the war raged half a world away. More than 35,000 American troops had been killed.

“It was the most electrifying moment of Woodstock, and it was probably the single greatest moment of the ’60s,” New York Post pop critic Al Aronowitz wrote. “You finally heard what

that song was about, that you can love your country, but hate the government.” (Francis Scott Key, whose patriotic poem written in 1814 later became “The Star-Spangled Banner,” might have disagreed.)

Noted cultural critic Greil Marcus, who got his start reviewing music for Rolling Stone magazine in the ‘60s, allowed for a more open-ended interpretation in Clara Bingham’s 2016 book “Witness to the Revolution: Radicals, Resisters, Vets, Hippies, and the Year America Lost Its Mind and Found Its Soul.”

“I always think of it as the greatest protest song ever, but it’s not just a protest song, it’s an incredibly layered, ambiguous piece of music,” Marcus said. “To take the national anthem and distort it ... it was taken as an attack on the United States for its crimes in Vietnam, which is not an unreasonable way to hear it, but it’s also a great piece of music. No art that has its own integrity is ever going to be about one thing or be one thing.”

Addressing the anthem

Even in the pre-Twitter era, Hendrix was hounded to explain his motivations. At a news conference a few weeks after Woodstock, Hendrix said, “We’re all Americans ... it was like ‘Go, America!’ ... We play it the way the air is in America today. The air is slightly static, see.”

He certainly harbored no ill will toward U.S. troops. Earlier in his Woodstock set, Hendrix dedicated “Izabella” to “maybe a soldier in the Army, singing’ about his old lady that he dreams about and humpin’ a machine gun instead.”

If Hendrix was protesting the national anthem or U.S. involvement in Vietnam, he never said so. On Sept. 9, Hendrix again addressed “The Star-Spangled Banner” on “The Dick Cavett Show.”

“What was the controversy about the national anthem and the way you played it?” Cavett asked Hendrix.

“I don’t know, man,” he replied. “All I did was play it. I’m American, so I played it. I used to have to sing it in school, they made me sing it in school, so ... it was a flashback.”

Cavett, addressing the audience, said, “This man was in the 101st Airborne, so when you write your nasty letters in ...”

“Nasty letters?” Hendrix asked.

“Well, when you mention the national anthem and talk about playing it in any unorthodox way,” Cavett said. “You immediately get a guaranteed percentage of hate mail from people who say, ‘How dare ...’”

“That’s not unorthodox,” Hendrix said, cutting off his host. “That’s not unorthodox.”

“It isn’t unorthodox?” Cavett asked.

“No, no. I thought it was beautiful. But there you go, you know?” Hendrix said, to applause from the audience.

J. Kimo Williams, 69, also thought it was beautiful. Williams, who founded the Lt. Dan Band with actor Gary Sinise, saw Hendrix perform at the Waikiki Bowl in May 1969, just before shipping off to the Army at 19. He was stationed at Fort Ord in California during Woodstock and did not become aware of “The Star-Spangled Banner” performance until checking out the “Woodstock” soundtrack album at the service club in Vietnam.

Williams was so inspired by that Hendrix concert that he immediately decided to dedicate himself to the guitar and a career in music. While serving as a combat engineer in Vietnam, Williams included Hendrix songs in the repertoire of his band, The Soul Coordinators. After returning to the States, he used his GI Bill benefits to attend Berkley College of Music and became an award-winning composer. As a student of music, he sees a simpler interpretation of that Woodstock performance.

“If it had been someone else, on piano, who was a famous classical piano player, and that person decides to improvise over ‘The Star-Spangled Banner,’ I don’t think there would have been as much of a controversy as [with] Hendrix doing it in his way,” said Williams, who resides in Shepherdstown, W.Va., with his wife, artistic partner and fellow Army veteran, Carol.

“Because he did nothing to the melody to make it sound wrong. He did nothing with the melody or with the ... he didn’t say, ‘here’s my protest, and we gotta’ get out of this war and if we don’t then here you go.’ He played it. He wanted to, you know, the words ... it says, ‘the bombs are bursting.’ He wasn’t talking about Vietnam, he was talking about Francis Scott Key indicating in the song that the bombs were going off, so he wanted the bombs to go off. He was actually trying to sonically represent the words of ‘The Star-Spangled Banner,’ and I thought he did a great job of it.”

Whatever Hendrix’s intent, the moment apparently wasn’t planned.

“The Star-Spangled Banner” “wasn’t on the set list!” bassist Billy Cox told Atlanta Magazine in 2012. “We had rehearsed a repertoire and we played that repertoire ... And then, Jimi just starts playing ‘The Star-Spangled Banner!’ At first I thought, ‘OK, I know it, let’s do it.’ And then all of a sudden something told me, ‘You better lay out of this one, Billy!’ And what an incredible decision that was. Jimi was one of a kind. That was his moment there.”

Cox continues to honor his friend on the all-star Experience Hendrix tours and with his Billy Cox Band of Gypsies Experience. Long before any of that, Cox and Hendrix were Army buddies at Fort Campbell, Ky.



This newsletter printed by



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Welcome Home




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



Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

STAND BY THEM

Confidential help for
Veterans and their families