

CONNECTION



Connecticut Chapter 120

Greater Hartford
Over 38 Years of Service to Veterans

November 2021

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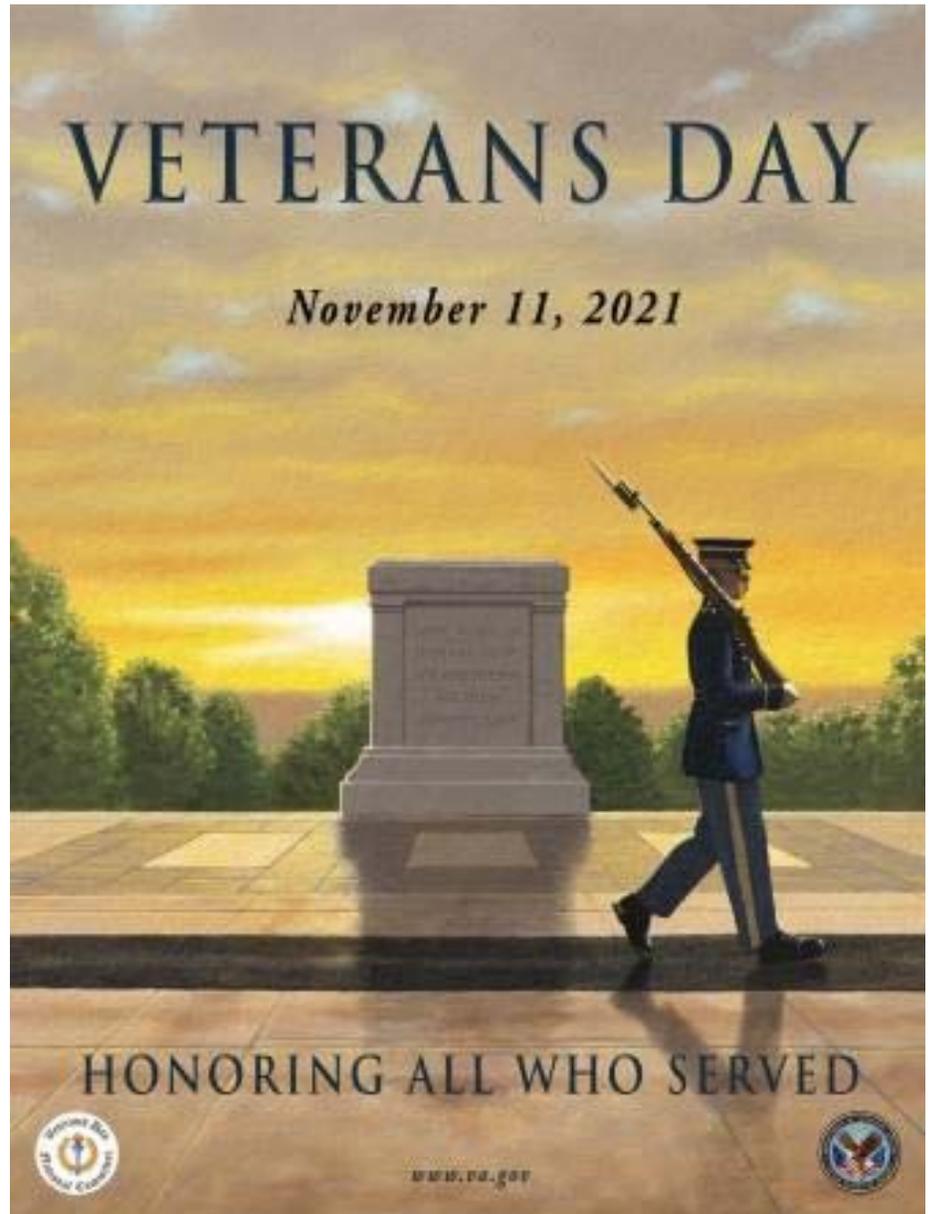
Chapter 120 membership meeting will be held on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 7:00pm in the Machinists Union Hall, 357 Main St., East Hartford. *State and East Hartford COVID-19 guidelines apply.*

The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, November 18 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 Newsletter Editor at (860) 282-7470, or e-mail the Newsletter Editor at ctchapter120@aol.com.

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“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.” — *George Washington*

CHAPTER 120 OFFICE	568-9212
Board of Directors	
Roger Anderson	528-4338
Paul Barry	569-3530
Peter Galgano	828-1999
Leigh Lovering	528-8312
Frank Zizzamia	569-0705
Executive Officers	
Bob Burgess, President	646-0205
Phil Morneault, Vice President	930-2122
Phil Morneault, Treasurer	930-2122
Peter Lund, Secretary	644-9770
VVA Service Representatives	
John Cutler	568-9212
E-Mail: VVA.Service.Rep@att.net	
Gerald Fabry, MD	884-7271
E-Mail : gerfab@comcast.net	
Gary Waterhouse	656-0430
E-Mail : gwaterhouse@cox.net	
Membership	
Frank J. Mello, Jr.	604-3879
E-Mail: Fmello336@yahoo.com	
Women Vietnam Veterans	
Patricia Dumin	620-4131
Product Sales	
Leigh Lovering	528-8312
lhlovering@gmail.com	
Newsletter/Website	
John Cutler	282-7470
E-Mail: ctchapter120@aol.com	
Notary Public	
Gary Gazdzicki, Sr.	812-5703
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

Frederick E. Arnold, Chapter 120 Life Member



Frederick Edward "Fred" Arnold, 75, of Simsbury, passed away peacefully on September 25, 2021, at McLean Home. Fred was born in Hartford on July 2, 1946, the son of the late Edward W. and Margarite (Derby) Arnold. Fred was raised in Simsbury and was a 1965 graduate of Simsbury High School.

Fred enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served his country during Vietnam. After returning home Fred became a Firefighter, serving the City of Hartford for 29 years, retiring with the rank of Captain. Fred was also a member of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company, serving the Firetown Station for 26 years, obtaining the rank of Captain. He was also a longtime member of the Simsbury VFW Post 126.

Fred is survived by his wife of 50 years Linette (Smith) Arnold of Simsbury, his son, Travis W. Arnold and his wife Leigha, and his grandson, Ethan Frederick Arnold. He was predeceased by his sister Charlene Arnold Binder and his parents.

A Graveside Service will be held at the Simsbury Cemetery Columbarium at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers donations in Fred's memory may be made to Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), 3033 Wilson Blvd. Third Floor Arlington, VA 22201 or Tunnels to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, New York, 10306.

Carmon Funeral Home and Family Center of Avon has care of the arrangements. For condolences, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

Chapter 120 Holiday Dinner Dance

Chapter 120 Holiday Dinner Dance is scheduled for Saturday, December 4, 2021, at the Machinists' Union Hall, East Hartford.

Once again, we will begin the evening by hosting a dinner from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., with dancing from 9:00 to 11:30 p.m. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

The Holiday Dance is not only a chance for Chapter members and their friends to get together, it is the Chapter's major fundraiser for the year. We continue to support veterans and the community with the basic necessities of life.

Birthday Wishes

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

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

Happy Birthday!

Special Raffle Item



A special raffle item will be available this year at the Dinner Dance. Carl Morin, Chapter 120 Life member, has donated one of his many loveseats he builds as a hobby.

Carl had previously donated a similar loveseat to The American Legion of Manchester.

Chapter 120 Scholarship Awarded



VVA Chapter 120 has donated \$3,000 to establish a scholarship at Goodwin University, East Hartford CT. It is the goal of the Officers and Board of Directors that the success of this scholarship program will result in additional endowments to be made within the next three years to perpetuate the Chapter 120 scholarship indefinitely. It is our intent to have donations and in

memoriam contributions, as well as chapter funding, build the endowment whose interest will perpetuate the scholarship indefinitely.

The VVA 120 scholarship recipient must meet the following requirements.

- Proof of Veteran status
- Have proven financial need
- Be a registered Veteran at Goodwin University.
- 50% credit hours completed in program of study.
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher

VVA Chapter 120 has been a significant contributor to the well-being of veterans and their families and our communities for over 38 years. It is our hope that our members and friends embrace this scholarship as an important part of our legacy.

The 2021 scholarship has been awarded to Nicole Wade, National Guard Specialist, 405th Field Hospital, West Hartford CT. Specialist Wade sent Chapter 120 a sincere thank you below:

I just wanted to reach out to you and let you know how appreciative I am to have won the Veterans Scholarship. The prices of college, including textbooks and other things continue to climb so this genuinely helps alleviate some of my stress. I am a first generation college student, as well as a non-traditional student so it's really exciting I am able to attend college. The Military was a huge reason why I was able to start college, the money I made helped me create a stable enough home life for my children and in turn lead me to beginning school here at Goodwin. I am thankful for people like you who go out of their way to create foundations like this for those of us who need a little extra help getting through school. You are incredible and I just cannot express how thankful I am enough!

Nicole Wade
SPC Wade, 68B
405th Field Hospital, West Hartford CT



POW/MIA News

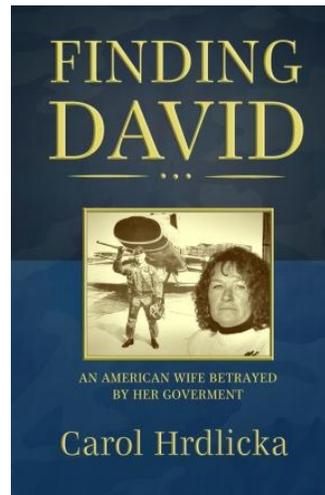


Finding David

Carol Hrdlicka, wife of confirmed POW David Hrdlicka, has written a book entitled "Finding David". The book is available at Amazon.

On May 18, 1965 the lives of a young fighter pilot—David L. Hrdlicka—his wife and three young children were changed forever. On that day, David was shot down in a secret war over

Laos. When the war ended, David was never returned to his family because the U.S. government had too much to hide. This is a story about his wife's (Carol) quest for truth. Her journey takes her to the halls of power in Washington D.C. to lobby for his release. She uncovers the deceitfulness of government agencies, testifies before Congressional Committees, and meets with Congressmen to garner support for negotiating David's release. At every turn, she is met with indifference and downright lies which only strengthens her resolve to find David.



On May 18, 1965, Captain David L. Hrdlicka was the pilot of the lead F105 aircraft in a four-aircraft flight over Houa Phan Province, Laos when his aircraft was hit by ground fire. Capt. Hrdlicka radioed that he had a fire light, and other members of the flight confirmed his aircraft was on fire.

Capt. Hrdlicka successfully ejected and parachuted to the ground, landing in a small valley beside a village in the Sam Neua area. His parachute

was seen opening and he was seen on the ground being led away by natives. Natives were observed rolling up Hrdlicka's parachute. A helicopter pilot landed at a nearby village and was told that the Pathet Lao picked him up.

On July 22, 1966, the Vietnamese newspaper, Quan Nhan Dan featured a story on his capture. On July 26, 1966, a tape recorded broadcast was made by Capt. Hrdlicka in which he read from a personal letter to Prince Souphanouvang. In this broadcast, a letter which attributed to Hrdlicka was read expressing his eagerness to see his wife and children. Radio Peking also broadcast a statement quoting Lao sources that Hrdlicka was their prisoner.

In August, 1966, the Russian news service, PRAVDA, ran a photograph of Hrdlicka, still in his flight suit, head bowed, and an armed guard behind him. Photos of Capt. Hrdlicka were received from several sources.

U.S. Intelligence reported that he was held in a cave near Sam Neua, Laos, and reports were monitored for several years

believed to pertain to him. David Hrdlicka was photographed in captivity as late as 1968 or 1969.

The caves at Sam Neua have been said to be extensive and house a compound, including facilities for prisoners, rivaling a small city. The number of Americans held in these caves, hidden from surveillance, has been estimated by some to be in the hundreds.

When 591 Americans were released in 1973, David Hrdlicka was not among them. The Vietnamese claimed that the Pathet Lao had no facilities for holding prisoners, although there is ample intelligence to indicate otherwise. And, although the Lao publicly stated they held “tens of tens” of American prisoners, the U.S. has never negotiated for these prisoners. Consequently, not one of the nearly 600 Americans lost in Laos has ever been released.

According to the official Air Force account of the loss of David Hrdlicka, “no information was ever received regarding his fate”. He remains on the rolls of the missing because “his remains have not been recovered and returned.”

On The Hill



Tester Underscores VA’s Role in Delivering Veterans Quality Health Care: ‘No ifs, ands, or buts’

During a Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee hearing on Oct.20 to consider 18 pending bills, Chairman Jon Tester solicited feedback from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and underscored its role in helping Congress advance critical legislation to improve veterans’ health care nationwide.

Responding to various legislative concerns highlighted by VA officials at the hearing, Tester said: “I’m all with working with the Department to ensure we have a bill that’s workable. If it’s not workable, you can’t implement it and it’s unfair to do that. On the same side of the coin, our job is to make sure there is oversight that you’re doing the job.”

Tester continued, “MST [military sexual trauma] is a massive issue within the VA. And I will tell you I’ve worked with members on this Committee—including the Ranking Member—on all these bills, and if they put you in a bad situation where it’s going to limit your ability to provide benefits to veterans, we don’t want to do that. What we want to do is hold you accountable, so we can make sure that you’re going to continue being the leader in health care for veterans in this nation. No ifs, ands, or buts about it.”

During the hearing, the Committee solicited feedback from VA officials and stakeholders on 18 pending bills, including the following six bills backed by Tester:

- Revising and Expediting Actions for the Crisis Hotline (REACH) for Veterans Act—Bipartisan, bicameral legislation to strengthen the Veterans Crisis Line’s staff training, management, and response to high-risk veteran callers at risk of suicide.
- Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans Act—Bipartisan, bicameral legislation requiring VA to develop a strategic plan to improve breast imaging services, create a telemammography pilot program for veterans in areas where VA does not offer in-house mammography, and expand veterans’ access to clinical trials through partnerships with the National Cancer Institute.
- Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2021—Bipartisan, bicameral bill to address longstanding MST claims processing issues and expand MST health care and counseling at VA to former members of the Guard and Reserve.
- Fiscal Year 2022 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act—Bipartisan legislation authorizing several VA construction projects to serve veterans for fiscal year 2022.
- Vet Center Improvement Act of 2021—Bicameral legislation mandating recommendations from a Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation requested by Senators Tester and Reed, and requiring VA to evaluate productivity expectations for readjustment counselors at Vet Centers in order to assess the impact of these expectations on the welfare of counselors and on the care provided to veterans.
- Veterans’ Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act—Bipartisan legislation to improve how VA treats and conducts research into prostate cancer, which is the most frequently diagnosed cancer by the Veterans Health Administration.

VVA Applauds Legislation to Expand Vet Center Access to Underserved Veterans; Vet Centers Save Lives



“Vietnam Veterans of America applauds Rep. Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11) and the bipartisan coalition of House Members for introducing the Vet Centers for Mental Health Act, H.R.5543, which calls for the expansion of the Vet Center program to areas where veterans are without access to mental health care and other critical services needed for their transition home,” said John Rowan, VVA National president. “This important legislation, when enacted, will add twelve 12 Vet Centers, providing life-saving services to veterans in rural and densely populated urban areas, as well as the Northern Mariana Islands.”

“Vietnam veterans know only too well the critical role the Vet Center plays in helping veterans reintegrate into civil society,” said Rowan. “In the early days after our return, Vietnam veterans were distrustful of the VA and wary of seeking help for their mental-health issues at VA facilities. The storefront counseling centers, “Vet Centers,” staffed by veterans and offering free, walk-in peer counseling, were established in the community as a way of circumventing the need to visit a VA campus. Simply put, the Vet Centers have saved the lives of many of our fellow veterans by providing the counseling and readjustment services in the safety of our own communities.”

“We fought hard to have the Vet Centers recognize the importance of including the family of the veteran in the veteran’s readjustment, and today services are available for both the veteran’s family as well as bereavement services to families of servicemembers who die on duty,” noted Rowan. “In 1979, the Vet Center Program was introduced as part of the Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Counseling Act, and continued until, in 1987, the VA attempted to relocate the Vet Centers to the campuses of the VA,” said Rowan. “With the help of the courts, VVA secured an injunction against the VA. And thanks to our allies on Capitol Hill, we were then able to secure a unanimous vote in Congress to permanently bar VA from relocating Vet Centers from the community to its medical facilities.

“Our support for the Vet Centers has never wavered,” said Rowan. “We routinely survey our members regarding their experiences to ensure the Vet Centers are meeting the needs of our veterans.” Today, over 300,000 veterans, servicemembers, and families receive counseling at VA’s 300 Vet Centers and 80 Mobile Vet Centers. We applaud the intent of this legislation to ensure access to all veterans in need of mental health counseling, and we encourage the further expansion of this program in those areas where there is none.” In addition to calling for a Vet Center in the Northern Mariana Islands, where veterans must leave the island to access mental-health care, H.R. 5543 calls for Vet Centers in eleven states with established need: New Jersey; Iowa; North Carolina; California; Illinois; Minnesota; Ohio; Florida; Maryland; Pennsylvania; and Virginia.

Veterans Affairs News



VA prepares to get ahead of surge in backlogged claims

Starting in October, the Department of Veterans Affairs will hire and train new staff to ensure Veterans’ claims are adjudicated quickly and help reduce an expected increase in the backlog of claims pending more than 125 days.

VA is taking the following proactive steps to help in the reduction:

- Hire and train 2,000 new employees to assist in claims processing.
- Utilize funds provided via the American Rescue Plan for overtime to ensure timely claims processing.
- Deploy requested fiscal year 2022 budget resources to support Agent Orange presumptive processing, as well as for general Compensation and Pension claims processing.

As of October 11, there were more than 204,000 backlog claims in an inventory of 603,000 total claims. VA identified more than 70,000 claims to review for additional entitlement stemming from the presumptive relationship between Agent Orange and Parkinsonism, bladder cancer and hypothyroidism. Many of these will enter the backlog in October which is projected to reach 260,000 pending claims.

“VA is committed to ensuring timely access to benefits and services for all Veterans. This includes making sure Veterans who may have experienced adverse health effects from military related exposures can get access to the benefits they need,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “As we process claims such as those for three new disabilities presumptively linked to Agent Orange exposure, including proactive application of Nehmer provisions, as well as three new Gulf War particulate exposure presumptives, we anticipate the claims backlog to increase this fall. The hiring of new employees will help us resolve these claims more quickly.”

Several factors have contributed to the recent backlog. Beginning in March 2020, operational changes necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an untimely delay of the Federal Records Centers’ retrieval of documents and suspended Compensation and Pension examinations. While these actions were necessary to protect the health and safety of employees and veterans, they slowed the processing time for claims. VA workload has also increased as a result of the aforementioned recent decisions and actions, including a court order mandating the review of previously denied Veterans on the basis of qualifying service in the 12 nautical miles surrounding Vietnam.

The backlog has decreased by more than 14,000 claims since the end of August 2021. With continued improvement of VA’s ability to obtain C&P examinations and Federal Records, and with all requested resources received, VBA plans to address the impending increase and then further reduce the current claims backlog to 100,000 claims by April 2024.

VA stands up commission to recommend new Veterans Health Administration Under Secretary

The Department of Veterans Affairs established a commission to identify candidates to lead and manage the Veterans Health Administration.

The position is for the Under Secretary for Health, who oversees the country’s largest health care system — which has an approximate annual budget of \$61 billion — and supervises the delivery of care to more than 9 million enrolled Veterans.

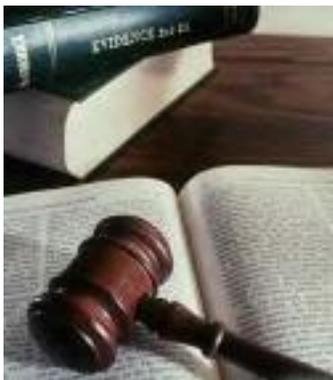
Those being considered must have substantial experience in connection with the programs of VHA or programs of similar content and scope. By law, the appointment is made without regard to political affiliation and solely on demonstrated ability in the medical profession, policy formulation, and health care administration and fiscal management.

Duties of the post include overseeing the operation of VA's more than 1,200 sites of care, including hospitals, community-based outpatient clinics, nursing homes, domiciliaries and 300 Vet Centers. The candidates should have a demonstrated ability to conceptualize and implement a vision, while being an advocate who can move an ambitious agenda forward to meet the needs of Veterans.

VHA is the nation's largest provider of graduate medical education and a major contributor to medical and scientific research. More than 73,000 active volunteers, 123,000 health professions trainees, and 306,000 full-time, health-care professionals and support staff are an integral part of the VHA community.

From Stars & Stripes

Navy agrees to reassess 'bad paper' discharges in pending lawsuit settlement



The Navy has agreed to review and potentially upgrade other-than-honorable discharges given to Navy and Marine Corps veterans dating back to March 2012, as part of a settlement reached in October 2021.

The agreement is pending approval by the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. It orders the

Navy Discharge Review Board to reconsider cases in which the board denied upgrades despite evidence that veterans were struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury or military sexual trauma when they separated from the military.

A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 16, during which the court will decide whether to give final approval to the settlement.

The court approved a similar settlement agreement with the Army during the spring. At the time, lawyers with the Yale Law School Veterans Legal Services Clinic, which represented veterans in the case, said they hoped the decision would provide momentum for the Navy case.

The Defense Department instituted a policy in 2017 to give "liberal consideration" to veterans looking to upgrade their other-than-honorable discharges, or "bad paper" discharges, in situations in which a service-related medical disorder could have led to their misconduct. Plaintiffs in the lawsuit argued the

Army Discharge Review Board ignored the policy and denied upgrades when they were warranted. The wrongful discharges go back even further, according to the Government Accountability Office. The GAO has reported the Pentagon didn't consistently apply previous policies going back to 2011 that required discharge review boards to take mental health issues into consideration.

Bad paper discharges disqualify veterans from receiving certain health and education benefits, as well as preferential hiring and tax breaks.

The lawsuit was filed in 2018 by Iraq War veteran Tyson Manker, who was kicked out of the Marine Corps after being caught with marijuana, which he said he used to self-medicate. He was later denied a discharge upgrade despite being diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Veterans Legal Services Clinic is seeking other veterans who might be part of the class-action settlement. Veterans affected by the settlement can submit written comments to the court or appear at the hearing Dec. 16 to offer their opinions on the agreement. The clinic is asking those veterans to go to mankersettlement.com to learn if they meet the criteria for the case.

In addition to reviewing cases going back to 2012, the settlement would require the Navy to allow veterans with bad paper discharges going back to 2001 to reapply for a discharge upgrade.

As part of the agreement, veterans also will be allowed to participate in their review board hearings through video conferencing. Veterans are required now to appear in person in Washington if they want to argue their case.

From Stars & Stripes

Alabama Veterans board wants study of health problems caused by chemicals at Fort McClellan



The Alabama State Board of Veterans Affairs is urging establishment of a program to help veterans who suffer health problems possibly caused by exposure to toxic substances at Fort McClellan in Anniston.

The SBVA unanimously passed a resolution urging Alabama's congressional delegation to support legislation to study the effects of service at Fort McClellan and the establishment of a health registry. The resolution calls for a presumptive service connection for veterans who were exposed at Fort McClellan.

A presumptive service connection means that the Department of Veterans Affairs presumes that a health condition is caused by the specific circumstances of a veteran’s work in the military.

Fort McClellan, established in 1917, became home to the Army’s Chemical Corps and Chemical Weapons School after World War II until the base closed in 1999.

According to the resolution, the Army used personnel at Fort McClellan to test exposure to and decontamination methods for sulfur mustard and nerve agents in 1953, a program called “Operation Top Hat.”

In 1998, a U.S. Army Environmental Center study found the presence of dangerous contaminants requiring investigation and cleanup before Fort McClellan could be converted to the public domain after the base closed.

In 2005, the National Academy of Medicine said the groundwater and soil at Fort McClellan were contaminated.

But the VA does not acknowledge health problems associated with service at Fort McClellan. Military and veterans who served on Fort McClellan were excluded from a class-action settlement between the city of Anniston and Monsanto chemical plant in 2003.

The VA has noted the existence of the toxic chemicals used at Fort McClellan and that potential exposures could have included, but are not limited to: Radioactive compounds (cesium-137 and cobalt-60) used in decontamination training activities; chemical warfare agents (mustard gas and nerve agents) used in decontamination testing; and airborne PCBs from the Monsanto plant in Anniston.

From Military.com

Colin Powell, Former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Has Died



Retired Army Gen. Colin Powell, the first Black man to serve as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and later secretary of state, died Monday Oct. 18 from complications of COVID-19. He was 84.

Powell, a monumental figure in American foreign policy for nearly 40 years, had been treated for the disease at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and was fully vaccinated, his family said in a statement.

Powell’s longtime assistant Peggy Cifrino told the New York Times that Powell suffered from multiple myeloma, a type of cancer that required treatment that depresses the immune system and that made him vulnerable to infections and illness.

From Military.com

Two tours in Vietnam

In 1968, then-Maj. Colin Powell was a Ranger assigned to the Army’s 23rd Infantry Division. It was his second tour in Vietnam. Just five years earlier, he was one of the American advisors to South Vietnam’s fledgling army. While on a foot patrol in Viet Cong-held areas in 1963, the 25-year-old Powell was wounded by a VC booby trap.

He stepped on a punji stick, which the VC laced with buffalo dung. The excrement created an infection that made it difficult for him to walk.

“The Special Forces medics cut my boot off, and they could see my foot was purple by then,” Powell said in an interview with the Academy of Achievement. “The spike had gone all the way through, from the bottom to the top, and then come right back out, totally infecting the wound as it made the wound.”

That ended his time in combat. Powell was reassigned to the 1st Army of the Republic of Vietnam division headquarters for the rest of that tour.

On his second tour in Vietnam, he was again behind a desk as the assistant Chief of Staff for the Americal Division (as the 23rd was known). Though a staff officer, when you’re a man of destiny like Colin Powell, the action comes to you.

On November 16, 1968, the helicopter transporting Maj. Powell along with the 23rd ID commander crashed.

Powell, injured but clear of the wreckage, ran back to the burning helicopter several times to rescue comrades. Though the helicopter was in danger of exploding, he continued to attempt the rescue.

When he found one passenger trapped under the mass of twisted, burning fuselage, Powell tore away the burning metal with his bare hands.



Powell was awarded the Soldier’s Medal for his actions that day. He managed to rescue every passenger from the downed helicopter. During his deployments to Vietnam, he also earned a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

Veterans in Touch – The Quiz

By Mike Barbour

Question: “What was the number one song in Vietnam through the years that still unites Vietnam Veterans today?” Don’t look now, but the answer is at the bottom of this column.

For most of us, the war in Vietnam was a grim illustration of the messages pounding out from sound systems in barracks in the base camps, on Armed Forces Radio night and day, and everywhere in the country. The music had a message. And to a lot of us, it came loud and clear. Ironically, we were in a major battle with the Vietcong defending our outpost and somehow a radio started playing Edwin Starr’s song ‘War/Good God Y’all / What is it good for? Absolutely nothin’. Needless to say, after the battle we wondered how that radio got turned on and the irony of the song.

Did music make us whole again? No matter what music genre you identified with, be it Hendrix, Motown, Southern Rock, Country, Beatles or Stones, I think the music brought us together. Homesick, hot and sweaty, music was a way for us to bond. When my team would come back to basecamp every 2 to 3 weeks, we would first of all get a shower and shave, then go to the club, drink cold PBRs or Buds; and just relax, feeling safe and listening to the music popular at home. Soldiers would harmonize when their favorite songs were played, passed liquor to their buddies and talked about wives and girlfriends back home; and dined on Spam, powdered eggs, stale hard bread, crackers and cookies. Yummy!

Today, sounds, smells and music bring back memories. The sounds of helicopters, jets and music from my time in Vietnam bring back those memories and causes flashbacks. Some of the songs that made an impression on me were:

- “Born in the USA” by Bruce Springsteen
- “Ballad of the Green Berets” by SSG Barry Sandler (That song was universally hated by all Special Forces Soldiers)
- “My Girl” by Temptations
- “And When I Die” by Blood Sweat and Tears
- “Chain of Fools” by Aretha Franklin
- “Bridge Over Troubled Water” and “Homeward Bound” by Simon and Garfunkel
- “Leaving On a Jet Plane” by Peter, Paul and Mary

I am not sure the music made us whole, but it provided an escape from the harsh realities of war. The answer to the question up top is “We Gotta Get Out of This Place” by the Animals. Whenever I hear that song, I turn the radio up to blast level and start singing off key.

Mike Barbour is a Service Officer, American Legion Post 43, and regular contributor to Positively Naperville News, Illinois.

Newsletter articles/ stories/photos

Any articles, stories and/or photos submitted for the newsletter must be received by the "cut off" date for any given month. Photos must be accompanied by text which describes the event, names, dates and any other pertinent facts so our readers understand the story behind the photo(s). The newsletter editor will announce the "cut off" dates at each Chapter meeting. The "cut off" date for our December 2021 newsletter is 19 November 2021. Due to space availability, the editor reserves the right to include or not include photos for a given month.

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97B Pierson Lane
Windsor, CT
print@printhubct.com
www.printhubct.com
860-580-7907

Hartford Vet Center



25 Elm Street, Suite A
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Phone: (860)-563-8800
Fax: (860)-563-8805



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