

# PUTNAM VETERAN'S NEWSLETTER

*An E-mail Newsletter of the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency*

## Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Veterans Community a crisp salute to the folks at the Mental Health Association in Putnam, Inc. Please take the time to look over the site. This is a wonderful site full of valuable information to aid and assist Veterans and family members. [www.mhaputnam.org](http://www.mhaputnam.org).



We have to be cognizant of issues swirling about regarding Veterans. Budgets, at any level, should never be balanced on the backs of Veterans. This is not the first time that our Veterans have been plundered in an attempt to "save" the nation. You can see that in the very graphic editorial cartoon that

However with the bad news comes good news from Albany. Senate Bill S.1199 was passed and signed by the governor. The real property tax law has been amended to include a school tax exemption for Veterans similar to the one Veterans enjoy for town property tax. There are several things that should be noted for a full understanding of the new exemption. The key word is that the School Boards "MAY" adopt such an exemption, it is not mandatory. Second it will be necessary have a public hearing prior to making the exemption a reality. This office is preparing testimony to be presented at any public hearings that may be held through out Putnam County. It would be a good thing to have as many Veterans in attendance at the public hearing as possible.

The Korean War picture is included because it is a neat picture.

Karl



appeared in the VFW Magazine in 1933. General MacArthur opened fire on the Bonus Marchers (World War I Veterans) who wanted money promised to them by the government earlier than 1945; to help ease the economic pain they were suffering and to collect their due compensation for having served. It was decided that they would not get the money. Well once again the Federal Government is trying to balance the budget on the backs of the veterans.

One of these budget cuts is in pension benefits to Veterans younger than 62. The budget deal would reduce the yearly cost-of-living adjustments for these military Veterans. It would even impact those Veterans who were forced to retire due to injuries sustained in the service of our country. Yes they are going to take money away from disabled Veterans.

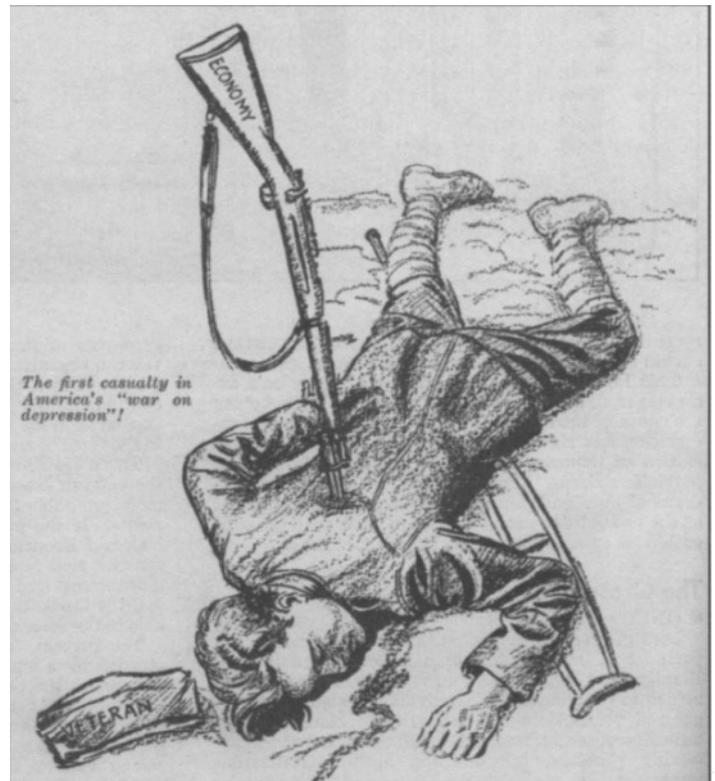


Fig. 2. "The First Casualty in America's 'War on Depression'!", Foreign Service, April 1933. Reprinted by permission of the VFW.

PUTNAM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

40 Gleneida Avenue  
Carmel, New York 10512  
(845) 808-1001 Fax (845) 808-1901  
www.putnamcountyny.gov

Patricia Simone  
Chief of Staff  
Nicholas DePerno Jr.  
Director of Constituent Services

MaryEllen Odell  
County Executive

Bruce J. Walker  
Deputy County Executive



December 31, 2013

To All Our Veterans,

The closing of 2013 brings with it many wonderful memories of times shared with many of you.

Of the many Veterans events I attended, I must say having dinner with and attending a special ceremony recognizing Vietnam Veteran's Day in March with VFW Post 5491 and their auxiliaries was a real honor for me.

April was a month I will always remember as Putnam County was proclaimed New York's first Purple Heart County and I had the distinct honor of accompanying Carmel resident Mario Antoci, a WWII Army veteran, on a Hudson Valley Honor Flight to Washington, DC to visit the World War II Memorial.

In May – and then again in November - we lined the grassy shores of Lake Gleneida with our Row of Honor, 100 American flags to commemorate Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day and Veteran's Day and honor those who served their country in the military.

July was a busy month filled with veteran based programs and initiatives. Putnam's Transportation Task Force announced a program for our disabled veterans where a new handicapped accessible van would take them to and from their medical appointments. Putnam also joined with members of New York's Military Order of the Purple Heart to launch an initiative to rename the new Tappan Zee Bridge in honor of the state's Purple Heart recipients.

In August, we announced the Pfc. Joseph Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Veterans Counseling program would be coming to Putnam, and I participated in the first annual Purple Heart Tribute Ride, a fundraiser for the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in nearby New Windsor, NY. I also attended the first annual Military Order of the Purple Heart Parade in Peekskill, NY.

In September, Putnam veterans were invited to attend the Veterans & Families Fair in Fishkill, NY, where they and their families met with an array of service providers and exhibitors offering information on healthcare, housing, employment, education, business support, etc.

This Thanksgiving, veterans residing at the Vincent Leibell Veterans Home in Carmel were once again treated to a full-course dinner prepared by members of Mahopac's Squadron 1080 of the Sons of the American Legion Post 1080.

Winding down the year, I attended the December 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremony at VFW Post 1374 in Carmel and then returned to where I started off 2013 - at VFW Post 5491 in Mahopac - as they honored three WWII veterans on the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Thank you to thank all of our veterans' agencies who do so much for so many here in Putnam. Now, as we look forward to 2014, our "Year of the Senior Citizen," I plan to highlight and honor not only our older veterans but all of our senior citizens and ask them to be our mentors, to share their wisdom and guide us through the coming year.

Sincerely,

MaryEllen Odell  
County Executive



Happy New Year

2014 "The Year of The Senior Citizen"





**YOU'RE INVITED!**

## 9th Annual Spinathon & Day of Fitness

Saturday, January 25, 2014 New York Sports Club Danbury, CT

### Be Part of Something Special

Our vans play an integral role in the rehabilitation process of each of our wounded heroes and their families. Driving or riding securely in a van is a major step toward regaining some of their independence.

- **Help raise funds to purchase vans** for our most severely wounded servicemen and women.
- **Meet our Heroes** and see the vans that your past donations helped purchase!
- Enjoy Spin, Yoga, TRX, Step, Hip-Hop Funk, Pilates, Boot Camp and much more!

### How You Can Support Us

With your support, Help Our Military Heroes has awarded 38 fully modified vans to some of our most severely wounded service members from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

### Come Show Your Support!

Meet our Heroes and see the vans that your past donations have helped purchase!

There's plenty of food, fun and camaraderie if you don't want to exercise!

Our classes are designed for all ages and fitness levels so no need to worry...you'll fit right in! (suggested donation:\$15/class)

New York Sports Club  
38 Mill Plain Road, Danbury, CT 06811



To Make a Donation go to:  
[www.HelpOurMilitaryHeroes.org](http://www.HelpOurMilitaryHeroes.org)  
or write to [info@HelpOurMilitaryHeros.org](mailto:info@HelpOurMilitaryHeros.org)

[www.HelpOurMilitaryHeroes.org](http://www.HelpOurMilitaryHeroes.org)