



PUTNAM VETERAN'S BULLETIN

Vietnam War Commemoration Program

It is often said by Vietnam Veterans that "we were winning the war when I left". For many of us Vietnam was a one year war. We served our portion of the war then had dinner with our families in the evening. There was little to no chance of re-acclimating. It is difficult for me to believe that I returned from Vietnam 43 years ago. It also strains my tired mind to believe that we are commemorating the 50th Anniversary of that war. As part of the anniversary the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency will become a Commemorative Partner with the US Department of Defense for the **Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration**.

There are several objectives set forth by the DoD for this commemoration:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war (POW), or listed as missing in action (MIA), for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

There is also a component of this initiative that seeks to publicize the contributions of the allies who fought with us during the Vietnam War.



The official start date for this program is 2015 and runs through 2017.

During that time period as Commemorative Partner we will have to commit to conduct two events each year. We are beginning this early in order to give the Agency and the county enough time to prepare outstanding events. Hundreds of organizations and government entities have already signed up for this program. If an event is being held that satisfies one of the objectives set forth by the DoD it will be included on the official on line Commemorative calendar. This would be a wonderful opportunity to show case what a great county Putnam is to Veterans. So while the official kick-off is not till 2015 We will begin with a re-dedication of our Gold Star Mothers Monument on Gold Star Mothers Day September 30 with a special recognition for our Vietnam Veterans.

Recently we lost a Gold Star Mother whose son was killed in Vietnam.

We will recognize Hazel Martinez and her son at this ceremony.

We will not be forgetting warriors of other Wars. Each quarter we will recognize those Veterans who have passed during that quarter and we will select a specific conflict to showcase. More about this in future newsletters.

Hope that you enjoy this newsletter and that you forward it in some form to any Veterans you may know.

Karl Rohde,
Director



STATISTICS OF THE VIETNAM WAR

U.S. Troop Strength by Year End (1955 - 1973)



The average U.S. infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year, thanks to the mobility of the helicopter. In comparison, the average infantry in the South Pacific during World War II saw only 40 days of combat in four years.

U.S. forces sent to Vietnam were the highest educated of all previously deployed armies. 79% had at least a high school degree prior to entering military service.



U.S. ARMED FORCES TOLL OF WAR (1955-1975)



In 1973, 2,646 U.S. military personnel were considered POW/MIA in South East Asia. 1,971 were in Vietnam, 575 in Laos, 90 in Cambodia, and 10 in China.

As of 2010, 1,698 are still unaccounted for.

PEAK STRENGTH OF ALLIED ARMED FORCES DURING VIETNAM WAR

Australia	7,672
New Zealand	552
Philippines	2,061
Rep. of Korea	50,003
South Vietnam	1,048,000
Thailand	11,586
United States	543,482

TEAM RED WHITE AND BLUE

Putnam County Veterans Service Agency, Putnam County Veterans Task Force and the PFC Joseph Dwyer Veterans Peer to Peer Program of Putnam will be hosting TEAM RWB event. (See the flyer at the end of the newsletter. We thought that you may be interested in the mission of TEAM RWB. We also hope many of you attend this event.

Team RWB Chapters and Communities

Our chapters and communities deliver consistent, local opportunities for veterans and the community to connect through physical and social activity. They host weekly fitness activities, monthly social events, and participate in local races and events together. These programs are at the core of Team RWB's mission.

Veteran Ambassador Program

The Veteran Ambassador Program welcomes new veterans to the team and ensures that they have the information and resources to stay connected with their local chapter as well as the national community. This is a national movement to encourage veterans to stay active and inspire others to do the same.

Veteran Athletic Camps

Our Veteran Athletic Camps are tremendous opportunities for veterans to learn a new sport/activity that they can take home to their local chapter. They are led and coached by world-class athletes and renowned experts and are built to inspire veterans to commit to their own health and fitness.

Veteran Affairs Div. Seeking Counselors For Jobs Statewide

Must be a Veteran to Get \$51G Job; Apply by Aug. 7 and Pay \$35 Fee

Need Some College and Experience Dealing with Benefits for Veterans

The Division of Veterans' Affairs is seeking State Veterans Counselors and State Veterans Counselors (Spanish Language) to fill positions around the state. The application deadline is Aug. 7 and the fee is \$35.

The salary is \$51,268. Appointees who work in New York City or in Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland or Westchester counties will receive an additional \$3,026 annual downstate adjustment. Those who work in Dutchess, Orange or

Putnam Counties will receive a \$1,513 mid-Hudson adjustment.

Advise on Rights, Benefits

As a State Veterans Counselor, you will assist, counsel and advocate for veterans and members of the armed services and their families and survivors on issues related to their rights and benefits. These include educational

Continued on Page 9

training, military law, employment and re-employment, health, medical and rehabilitation services and facilities, and the provisions of laws relating to veterans' rights and privileges.

In addition, you will prepare and process claims, maintain liaison with public and private agencies that provide benefits for veterans, disseminate information to the news media, make personal appearances before local veterans and civic organizations, manage a local Division of Veterans' Affairs Office and perform other duties as directed. You may also supervise support staff.

You must meet three criteria in order to be eligible for the job. By Sept. 21, the date of the test, you must have:

- One year of active military duty; and
- Four years of experience in employment counseling, military career counseling, military recruiting, guidance counseling, psychological counseling, employment interviewing, personnel administration, teaching, social work, or labor relations; or as a Veterans' Organization Service Officer; or in a governmental position responsible for explaining benefit program and entitlement criteria to veterans and/or their families; analyzing claims for veterans benefits; preparing rating decisions; and/or directing and conducting post-decision hearings and processing appeals for veterans and/or their families; and
- 30 semester credit hours of college study.

You must submit a copy of your DD-214 to prove your status as a veteran. Send it to the State Department of Civil Service, Albany, NY 12239, Attention: S2LAK; or fax it to (518) 473-4313, or e-mail it to S2Unit1@cs.state.ny.us. Please include your name and exam number on a fax cover sheet or the subject line of an e-mail. If you are on active duty and wish to request a military make-up examination, please call (518) 473-6627.

More College Counts

Beyond the required 30 semester credit hours, additional credits may be substituted for up to two years of the required work experience at the rate of 30 semester credit hours for one year of experience. If you are using the coursework substitution to meet the minimum qualifications, you must submit the name and location of the college and a list of the courses you have completed with the corresponding number of credit hours as described above. Appropriate part-time and volunteer work experience



TEAM RED, WHITE & BLUE IS TRANSFORMING THE WAY AMERICA SUPPORTS ITS VETERANS WHEN THEY RETURN FROM ACTIVE DUTY



Our mission is to connect America's veterans to their community through physical and social activity.

TO LEARN MORE OR REACH OUT TO YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER CAPTAIN, GO TO TEAMRWB.ORG

TEAMRWB.ORG IT'S OUR TURN

No Veteran Alone Volunteer Program



Looking for a way to quietly thank a Veteran for his/her service to our country?

*VA Hudson Valley Health Care System
and the
Hospice Veteran Partnership
are looking for volunteers to join our
"No Veteran Alone" Program*

The final months of life are often times for life review and reflection.
Some Veterans do not have loved ones that can visit regularly.

Volunteering would include visits to offer companionship and/or sitting
for short periods at the bedside of a person nearing death.

*Training about Final Hours of Living, Good Communication,
Grief/Bereavement & Self Care, as well as ongoing support and
reflection about this important work, will be provided.*

This work is not for everyone but, for some, it can be extremely rewarding.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Castle Point or Montrose VA inpatient units,
please contact the **Voluntary Service Office** at **(845) 831-2000, x5135**.

If you are interested in volunteering for this program at your local hospice,
please contact the local hospice.



Castle Point
41 Castle Point Road
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
845-831-2000

www.hudsonvalley.va.gov

FDR Montrose
2094 Albany Post Road
Montrose, NY 10548
914-737-4400

THE PUTTING VETERANS FUNDING FIRST ACT OF 2013, H.R. 813

"If there is one thing people in Washington and across America agree on, it's that we should never let funding for veterans become a casualty of Washington gridlock. I'm proud to introduce this bipartisan bill, which would simply enact into law the widely accepted view that America's veterans should not be held responsible for Washington's inability to reach an agreement on how to cut spending. Our veterans were there for us when we needed them the most, and the Putting Veterans Funding First Act of 2013 will ensure they have our support during their time of need." -Rep. **Jeff Miller, Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs**

What the Bill Does:

H.R. 813 would require Congress to fully fund the Department of Veterans Affairs' discretionary budget a year ahead of schedule, ensuring that all VA services will have timely, predictable funding in an era where continuing resolutions and threats of government shutdowns are all too frequent.

Why It's Important:

America's veterans have already paid their debt to this nation. In return for their service, our nation promised them care and benefits to help readjust back into civilian life. This bill would fulfill that promise by ensuring that crucial VA services aren't affected by Washington's partisan budget wrangling, and that the

care and benefits veterans have earned are delivered them with timeliness and predictability.

Who Benefits:

The American warrior – past, present, and future.

Why This Bill Should Become Law:

- It would ensure that all VA services have timely, predictable funding in an era where sequesters, continuing resolutions and threats of government shutdowns are all too frequent.
- It would simply enact into law the widely accepted view that America's veterans should not be held responsible for Washington's inability to reach an agreement on how to cut spending.
- It would make it easier for VA to plan for key investments in information technology, claims processing and construction projects.
- It would grant Congress greater oversight on multi-year funding proposals, with one year building off of the next.

What Others Are Saying:

"Our veterans sacrificed all they had for our protection, now it's up to us to protect the care and benefits they have earned for their service. The Putting Veterans Funding First Act of 2013 is a common-sense approach to ensuring that arbitrary budget cuts won't jeopardize the care and benefits America has promised our veterans, and I am proud to co-sponsor it." – **Rep. Mike**

Michaud, Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

"The VFW applauds Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Michaud for coming together and recognizing that our veterans deserve timely and predictable care and benefits. Regardless of the difficult fiscal decisions our country may need to make, we can never abandon our responsibility to care for the men and women who have borne the battle." – **Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander John Hamilton**

"This legislation would ensure that all VA services will have timely, predictable funding." Far too often essential veterans services have been put in jeopardy because of inadequate or delayed funding and threats of government shutdowns." – **Disabled American Veterans National Commander Larry A. Polzin**

Please contact your Congressman and US Senators.

The Senate Bill is S.932

Congressman Maloney-201-225-5441

Senator Gillibrand-202-224-4451

Senator Schumer-202-224-6542

This is important!~!!!!!!

The Putting Veterans Funding First Act also has the support of Paralyzed Veterans of America

National Cemetery Administration

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death.

For eligible veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990 and whose grave is marked with a privately pur-

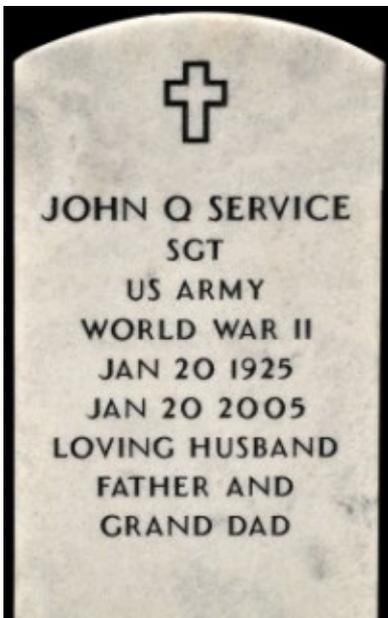
chased headstone, VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the graves or a Medallion to be affixed to the privately purchased headstone.

Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. Bronze niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains. The style chosen must be permitted by the officials in charge of the private cemetery where it will be placed.

When burial or memorialization is in a national cemetery, state veterans' cemetery, or military post/base cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin or authorized representative.

Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a Government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state veteran's cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.

Note: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private



cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense.

Setting Government Headstones and Markers

Cemetery staff in national, military post, and military base cemeteries are responsible for setting the headstone or marker at no cost to the applicant. Some state Veterans' cemeteries may charge the applicant a nominal fee for setting a Government-furnished headstone or marker.

Arrangements for setting a Government-furnished headstone or marker in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all placement costs are at private expense.

Checking Status of a Headstone, Marker or Medallion Request

If more than 30 days have passed since your claim was submitted to the VA in Washington, D.C. by you, or someone assisting you, please call our Applicant Assistance Unit to verify we are in receipt of your claim.

If more than 60 days have passed since submitting your claim and the grave is still not marked, you should contact the cemetery, funeral home, or other party responsible for accepting delivery of the headstone, marker or medallion to see if they have received it. If they have not received it, you may call our Applicant Assistance Unit between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday, at **1-800-697-6947**.

Please Note: The above telephone number is for questions related to headstones, markers and medallions only.

For assistance in obtaining veterans' records or for information on other VA benefits, please call your local Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office at **1-800-827-1000**.

Memorial Headstones and Markers

Memorial headstones and markers, for individuals or groups, are furnished for eligible deceased active duty service members and Veterans whose remains are not recovered or identified, are buried at sea, donated to science or whose cremated remains have been scattered.

Memorial headstones and markers may also be furnished in national, military post/base or state Veterans cemeteries to eligible spouses whose remains are unavailable for interment, whether or not they predecease the eligible Veteran.

These headstones and markers bear an "In Memory of" inscription, as their first line and must be placed in a recognized cemetery.

Memorial headstones and markers for spouses and other dependents are not available for placement in private cemeteries.

VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker, must be submitted to request a memorial marker.

SENATOR TERRY GIPSON'S VETERANS & FAMILIES FAIR



Featuring vendors offering information and services in Dutchess and Putnam such as healthcare, housing, employment, education, business support, and much more.

Come celebrate our Dutchess & Putnam Veterans Hall of Fame honorees & recognition of our WWII veterans.

Refreshments will be served.

September 28, 2013

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Ramada Inn, Rt. 9 Fishkill, NY

(845) 463-0840 or Gipson@NYSenate.gov for more info

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ATTENTION ALL VETERANS AND FITNESS LOVERS

Come join Team RWB
for a FREE workout!

Saturday, September 7, 2013

Veterans Memorial Park
201 Gypsy Trail Road,
Carmel, NY 10512

8:00AM

Rain or Shine

Light Refreshments will be provided

9.11
Remembrance
Workout



Sponsored by the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency and the Putnam County Veterans Task Force
PFC Joseph Dwyer Veterans Peer-to-Peer Program of Putnam

