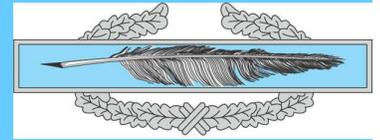


# PUTNAM VETERANS NEWSLETTER



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

## “Out of the Darkness” Community Walk

Veterans comprise less than seven percent of the population in the United States today, yet we account for twenty-three percent of the daily deaths by suicide in this country. On average ninety-six Americans take their own life each day and twenty-two of them are Veterans. These are not just the Veterans from OIF and OEF, but also those who served during WW II, Korea, Vietnam, etc. As I write this, the latest number of U.S. service members who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq since 9/11/01 totals 6,805. This year alone we expect that 8,030 Veterans will die by suicide. These numbers and statistics are mind numbing.

On October 19, 2014 a team representing the PFC Joseph Dwyer Veterans Peer-to-Peer Program of Putnam County will participate once again in the annual American Foundation for Suicide Prevention “Out of the Darkness” Community Walk in Carmel, NY. We will dedicate our participation to the memory of two Putnam County Veterans who took their own lives.

Matthew Oiveri, a 28 year old Coast Guard Veteran who served two deployments to the Persian Gulf committed suicide on February 11, 2012. Members of Matthew’s family joined as we walked last year and lead the walk carrying the banner.

Matthew Menchen a USMC Veteran was an active duty Marine from 2000 to 2006. During part of his time in service, he deployed on board the USS Portland. Matthew took his own life on July 16, 2014 and was buried on what would have been his 38th birthday, July 21, 2014. His family will be join-

ing us as we walk this year hoping that the funds they raise will help keep others from having to endure the loss of a loved one through suicide.

Last year our team of thirteen walkers included family members affected by suicide, Veterans and family members of Veterans. Our financial goal was to raise \$2,500 in donations. In the end eighty separate donations were received totaling \$4,165, 167% of our goal.

Please join us on Sunday October 19 as we walk “Out of the Darkness” to raise money for suicide prevention, especially among Veterans. To join our team go to:

<http://afsp.donordrive.com/team/pfcjoedwyer>

Click on the “JOIN OUR TEAM” button

For Participant type choose “Team walker”

Set your Fund raising goal  
For Role choose “Join a Team” which will then show choose an existing team which will be “PFC Jos. Dwyer”

Fill out the rest of the required information

Connect with family and friends through Social media and emails to raise money. They can donate online or you can print an “Offline donation form” for those who wish to send a check.

If you are unable to participate but wish to make a donation go to:

<http://afsp.donordrive.com/team/pfcjoedwyer>

Click on “Roster”

Choose and click on one of the Team Members

Click on the “Donate Now” button and follow the instructions

## “It takes the courage and strength of a



## warrior to ask for help.”

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

## Art



PUTNAM COUNTY  
VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY

DONALD. B. SMITH GOVERNMENT CAMPUS  
110 OLD ROUTE 6, BLDG. 3  
CARMEL, NY 10512

PHONE (845)808-1620 FAX (845)808-1940

KARL ROHDE, DIRECTOR

ART HANLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Lest we forget



DAVE GRANLUND



Gold Star Mother Julia Marauder, a lost her youngest son in Vietnam while all three of her sons were serving. She shared the following: "My receiving the gold star was a satisfying and proud remembrance of the son it stood for. The smallness of the pin creates a very personal relationship when worn. It signifies so much."

During the early days of World War I, a Blue Star was used to represent each person, man or woman in the Military Service of the United States. As the war progressed and men were killed in combat, others wounded and died of their wounds or disease, there came about the accepted usage of the Gold Star.

This Gold Star was substituted and superimposed upon the blue Star in such a manner as to entirely cover it. The idea of the Gold Star was that the honor and glory accorded the person for his supreme sacrifice in offering for his country, the last full measure of devotion and pride of the family in this sacrifice, rather than

the sense of personal loss which would be represented by the mourning symbols. During the early days of World War I, a Blue Star was used to represent each person, man or woman in the Military Service of the United States. As the war progressed and men were killed in combat, others wounded and died of their wounds or disease, there came about the accepted usage of the Gold Star.

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The following is part of an article that appears on the American Gold Star Mothers web page:

The Putnam County Joint Veterans Council started a fund raising drive and site planning for the statue. At Veterans Park in Kent, New York, the future home of the statue, the model of the statue was debuted in

July 2003. The first donation was from a WWII Veteran who opened his wallet and gave Chernak \$3.00. Andrew noticed the mans wallet was now empty and the proud smile on the aged veterans face. The first Veterans groups to donate funds were VietNow and many Pennsylvania chapters of Vietnam Veterans of America. The community at large, local businesses, individuals, motorcycle clubs, veterans and non veterans alike contributed. ....Eighteen months of sculpting and foundry work later, the statue was set in place on her block of polished granite. The man operating the crane that gently lowered the statue in place was Peter Allegretta with members of the statue committee witnessing the results of their hard work and dedication. Five days later, in a moving one hour ceremony, the statue was unveiled before Gold Star Mothers from several states and many dignitaries. The customary applause did not happen at the moment of unveiling. Three minutes of silence was broken by staggered sobs and sighs. The smiles on the tear streaked faces of the Gold Star Mothers gave testimony that the project was worth the four years of effort on the part of so many.

We are so very proud of our monument. We ask you to join with us on Gold Star Mothers Day to honor these special Mom's along with all Gold Star Family Members. **If you know a Gold Star Family member please give them the special invitation below.**



# Gold Star Mothers & Gold Star Families



**It is with Solemn Honor that We Ask You to Join Us for Gold Star Mothers Day**

**At Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park**

**September 28, 2014 at 1:00 PM**

**Putnam County Joint Veterans Council -Putnam County Veterans Service Agency**

**County Executive MaryEllen Odell & Putnam County Legislature**



**WHEN:**  
September 11, 2014

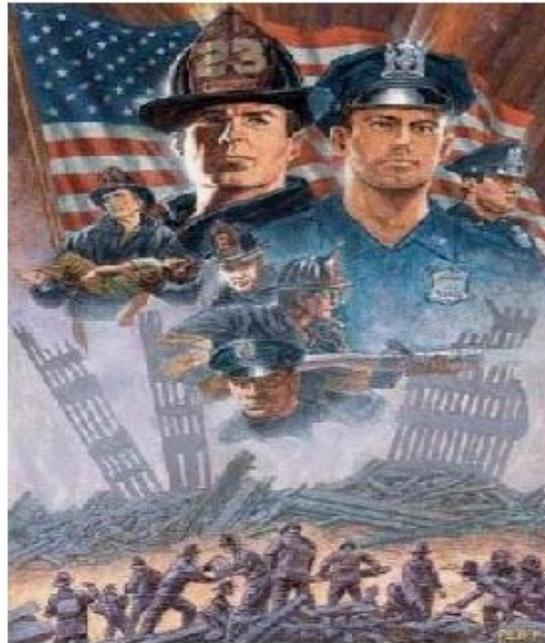
**WHERE:**  
The Cornerstone Park  
Building  
1 Fair Street  
Carmel, NY

**TIME:**  
2:00 PM– 5:00 PM

*All Ages  
Are  
Welcomed!!*



## Take Advantage of a Great Opportunity to Thank Someone!!



### Please Come Join Our Write a "Thank You" Letter Campaign!

In remembrance of 9/11, the VetCorps Project, Putnam County Communities That Care Coalition, and Putnam County Office of Veterans Services will be sponsoring an opportunity for our community to write "Thank You" letters for first responders, uniformed servicemen/women, Veterans, police officers and firefighters to thank them for their dedicated service.

On behalf of the Putnam County Executive Office a generous donation of American Flags will be given to the first 200 letter writers!

If you would like to attend or become a volunteer please contact VetCorps Prevention Coordinator, Chauntel Wright, at [putnamvetcorp@gmail.com](mailto:putnamvetcorp@gmail.com) or VetCorps Project Supervisor, Elaine Santos, at [putnamdfcgrantee@gmail.com](mailto:putnamdfcgrantee@gmail.com). Both can also be reached at 845-225-4646.

Sponsored By:



**PUTNAM COUNTY**  
VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY

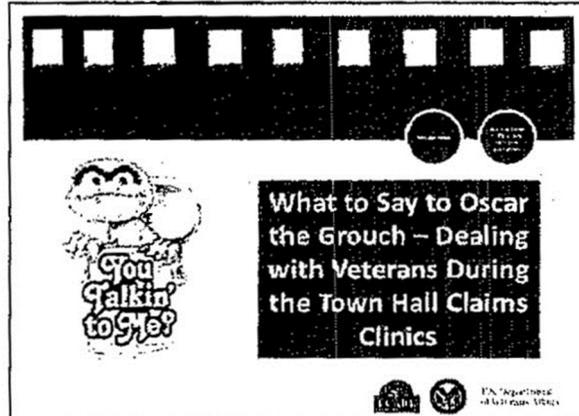


# I AM OSCAR THE GROUCH

Let me state that personally the VA has been good to me. There have been no pitfalls or pratfalls in my experience with the VA. That does not mitigate the fact that there are problems with the VA that must be addressed. It is not the intention of this article to post a laundry list of problems rather the purpose is the try to understand why there are problems. It is a problem of perception that is skewed toward government. It is not the duty of the VA to be concerned with the dollars and cents of the government. Nor be concerned with the political fever at any given time. It is the duty of the VA to uphold its mission as expressed in the VA motto. On either side of the main entrance to the VA in Washington DC is a plaque engraved with the following: *"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan"*. Taken almost verbatim from Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address. If the people who run the VA would start each day by reciting that motto perhaps there would be

fewer problems. If the management realized that they work for those who have secured their well paying jobs through their service and sacrifice to this country there would be no chicanery. The callous disregard

world is changing dates a way to correct a backlog? It would be like if I were charged with a late payment to the IRS. Using the VA mindset I could simply change the date on my check.



One of the actually slides that appeared in the VA Presentation

This is the type of institutional callousness that exacerbates problems. It is done so numbers look good and management can get bonuses. The fact that management vie for bonuses at the expense of Veterans is truly a national humiliation.

for Veterans is what is most appalling. Military.com reported that when an VA office in Philadelphia was told that they had too many claims pending over 125 days and that they had to reduce that number they did so by changing the dates that the claims were sent. Later they defended the action by claiming a misunderstanding caused them to change the dates. In what

Now we have a Philadelphia VA depicting Veterans that they will be meeting with as Oscar the Grouch. Well some may see this as a fairly benign and perhaps a humorous interlude. Not worthy of umbrage from Veterans. However it is basic perceptions that create stereotypes. Perceptions that Veterans looking for compensation, that they richly deserve and healthcare that they vitally need that is being denied or delayed, are Oscar the Grouch. This is unfair and prejudicial to Veterans.

I **am** Oscar the Grouch but I will be damned if any VA bureaucrat can call me that.

Karl

## Veterans Voices & The Girl Scout Gold Award

Hello, my name is Julia Morini and I am working on my Girl Scout Gold Award Project. The Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout can earn and is the equivalent to a Boy Scouts Eagle Scout Project. For this project I will be interviewing different Veterans and recording their stories. When I have collected enough interviews I will make

two DVD's, one to be shared in the Putnam Library System, and the other to be kept as a historical record at Brewster High School. If you would possibly be interested sharing your story or providing assistance for this project, please contact me at:

**jlynnmorini22@gmail.com or call 845-279-6132.**



STATE SENATOR  
TERRY GIPSON'S

*2nd Annual*

# VETERANS & FAMILIES FAIR



*Featuring vendors offering information & services for Dutchess & Putnam Veterans & families including healthcare, housing, employment, education, business support, & much more.*

*Come celebrate our Dutchess & Putnam Veterans Hall of Fame honorees. Refreshments will be served.*

**Saturday, September 27, 2014**

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

**Ramada Inn, Rt. 9 Fishkill, NY**

(845) 463-0840 or [Gipson@NYSenate.gov](mailto:Gipson@NYSenate.gov) for more info

**All Veterans and their families welcomed. \*NO CHARGE\***



HEALTH**HQ**UEST



OUR DEBT TO THE  
HEROIC MEN AND VALIANT  
WOMEN IN THE SERVICE  
OF OUR COUNTRY CAN  
NEVER BE REPAID. THEY  
HAVE EARNED OUR  
UNDYING GRATITUDE.  
AMERICA WILL NEVER  
FORGET THEIR SACRIFICES.

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN



# SAVE the DATE

## Hudson Valley Honor Flight

# LUNCH OF HONOR

Sunday, November 16th, 2014  
1:00 – 4:30pm  
Anthony's Pier 9 - New Windsor, NY

\$50 per person  
\$35 Active Duty Military and Veterans.  
WWII Veterans – FREE

[WWW.HVHONORFLIGHT.COM](http://WWW.HVHONORFLIGHT.COM)

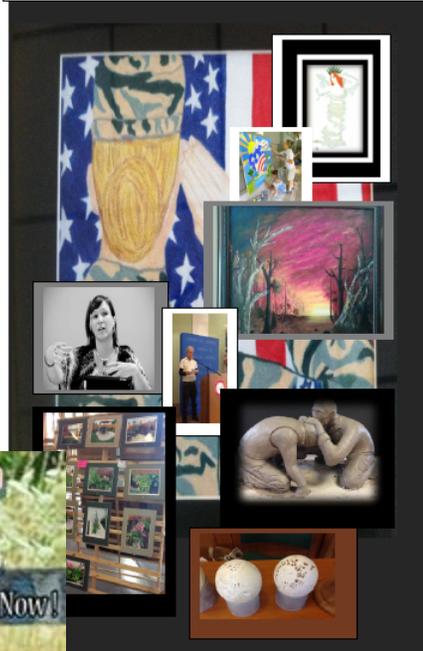
RSVP & Information:  
Becky Boone, *Executive Director*  
becky@hvhonorflight.com  
845-391-0076  
By Check:  
Make checks payable to:  
Hudson Valley Honor Flight (HVHF)

Mailing Address:  
Hudson Valley Honor Flight  
P.O. Box 375  
Walden, NY 12586  
[www.hvhonorflight.com](http://www.hvhonorflight.com)





# CALL FOR VETERAN ARTISTS



## VETERAN ARTS SHOWCASE

Wallace Center \* November 21-23, 2014

FDR Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park, NY

**APPLICATION DEADLINE  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2014**

Download Application at

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

Or contact [DrLoriA@gmail.com](mailto:DrLoriA@gmail.com) 845-226-4218

We welcome All Visual Artists, Crafts,  
Musicians, Performers, Writers -  
any medium or genre.

All Veterans or Military-connected Eligible  
Any duty or discharge status  
--SERVICE MEMBERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS--

SPONSORED BY:



**JESSICA LYNN**  
Takin' Over  
The Live Taping of Her New PBS Television Special  
Tickets on Sale Now!

A Benefit Concert for  
**UNITED FOR THE TROOPS**  
Active Military - Free Admission  
Just Show Your ID!

Be A Part of The Show!  
**Saturday September 27th**  
7:00 p.m.

PARAMOUNT  
HUDSON VALLEY THEATER  
www.ParamountHudsonValley.com  
www.JessicalynnMusic.org

As Seen on  
**PBS**