

# PUTNAM VETERAN'S NEWSLETTER

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

To help Veterans reach the "Liberty" they so justly deserve.

*Karl*



We are very proud that we will be entering into a partnership with the Mental Health Association of Putnam County to establish the Joseph Dwyer Peer-to-Peer "warm lines". It is fitting that the organization we are partnering with has a symbol that looks a great deal like

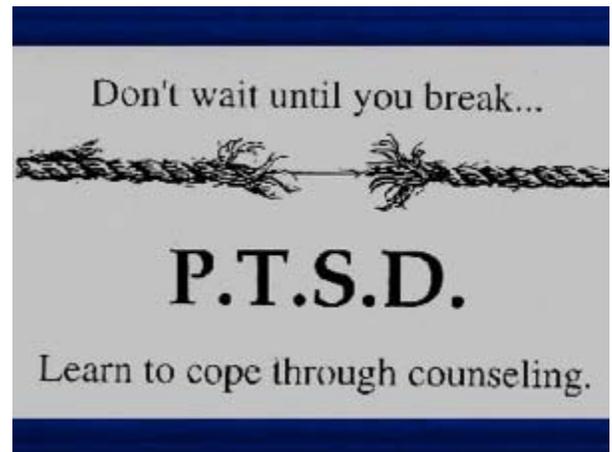
the Liberty Bell. It is fitting because if you look at the core of what we are hoping to accomplish it is indeed "Liberty".

"Liberty" from the demons that haunted Joe Dwyer and still haunts an untold number of Veterans. For Joe the only way he found "Liberty" was through substance abuse and eventually death. Although he called the paramedics to save him it was too late for Joe, his wife and his daughter.

It is our intention to expand this program as rapidly as possible and as the need arises. We would like to offer "warm lines" to family members. They are

often forgotten in the shuffle. The anxiety of dealing with their Veteran may be overwhelming at times and having a kind and understand voice of experience would be inviting. We would also like to move into group sessions where an experienced facilitator, a "boots on the ground" Veteran that monitors and encourages the Veterans assembled to open up and talk about their issues.

Through MHA training will be offered for the Veterans who will staff the "warm lines". Out of the Veterans Service Agency we will be working with Peer-to-Peer experts who we will bring to Putnam for more extensive and specific training. This is an exciting new aspect of the Putnam County Service Agency. Another vital avenue to offer aid and comfort to Veterans.



From [Newsday](#) - Joseph Dwyer became a face known around the world. The March 2003 image became one of the most iconic of the U.S. invasion of Iraq: that of a bespectacled American soldier carrying an Iraqi child to safety. However, upon returning home, Dwyer was haunted by his experience in Iraq: His internal terror got so bad that, in 2005, he shot up his El Paso, Texas, apartment and held police at bay for three hours with a 9-mm handgun, believing Iraqis were trying to get in.

Last month, on June 28, police in Pinehurst, N.C., who responded to Dwyer's home, said the 31-year-old collapsed and died after abusing a computer cleaner aerosol. Dwyer had moved to North Carolina after living in Texas.

Dwyer, who joined the Army two days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and who was assigned to a unit of the 3rd Infantry Division that one officer called "the tip of the tip of the spear" in the first days of the U.S. invasion, had since then battled depression, sleeplessness and other anxieties that military doctors eventually attributed to post-traumatic stress disorder.

The war that made him a hero at 26 haunted him to the last moments of his life.



**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**



Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Dependent Indemnity Compensation or DIC, is a benefit available to the widow of a service connected disabled Veteran, if, that Veteran died, either directly or secondarily, due to his or her Service

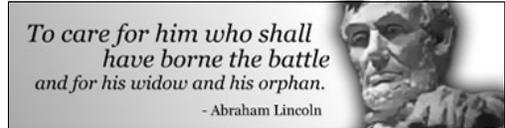
Connected Disability (SCD). In order qualify, the widow must produce a Death Certificate, and it MUST list cause of death either primarily or secondarily as related to his Service Connected Disability (SCD) condition. If the death certificate does not indicate the cause of death as related

to the SCD condition, there will be no DIC benefit for the widow. Therefore, the spouses of all SCD Veterans should be aware of their Veterans' SCD conditions and ensure, that if at the time of death, the cause of death, could be in any way, related to the SCD, it must be brought up and recorded as such on the Death Certificate!

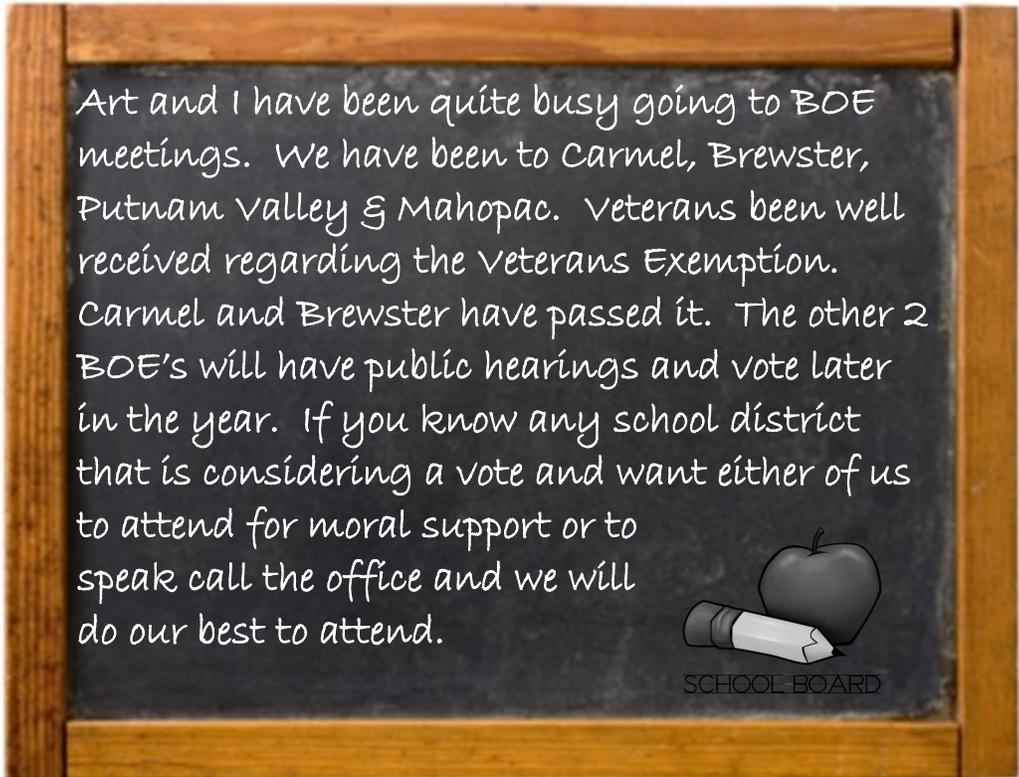
**Brennan Mahoney**

**State Veterans' Counselor**  
[brennan.mahoney@veterans.ny.gov](mailto:brennan.mahoney@veterans.ny.gov)

**Castle Point VAMC (T, W, TH)**  
41 Castle Point Road  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590



Alternative Veterans Exemption Exemption Levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>War Veteran (RPL code 41121)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15% reduction in assessed value with sliding scale maximums</li> </ul> </li> <li>Combat Zone Veteran (RPL code 41131)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10% additional reduction in assessed value with sliding scale maximums</li> </ul> </li> <li>Disabled Veteran (RPL code 41141)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional reduction in assessed value to veterans who incur service-connected disabilities, equal to one-half of their service-connected disability ratings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



**County Executive MaryEllen Odell Invites You to**

# **Row of Honor Kick-Off**

# **Pancake Breakfast**

**Saturday, April 19th**

**9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Carmel VFW Hall  
Route 52, Carmel, NY

**Proceeds to Benefit Veterans' Honor Flight**

Donation: \$8 per person / \$12 per Family  
*Sponsorships are Available*

**Order Your Flag for Putnam County's Row of Honor**

The shore of Lake Gleneida will once again be lined with 100 flags forming the Row of Honor.

These flags are flown twice a year with your loved ones names attached on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. This historic observance has drawn national attention to Putnam County.

Flags are \$100 each. Please make checks payable to Joint Veteran's Council c/o PC Veterans Affairs, Donald B. Smith Government Campus, 110 Old Route 6, Bldg. 3, Carmel, NY 10512

Flags are proudly  
made in the USA



**Contact Veterans affairs to RSVP for the Breakfast and to order your flag at 845-808-1620 or go to [www.PutnamCounty.com/ROH](http://www.PutnamCounty.com/ROH)**

May 1st is a day that means different things to different people. For some, it is a day to celebrate the glory of spring with a dance around the maypole. For many, it is known variously as International Workers' Day, Labor Day, or simply May Day -- a commemoration of the Haymarket Riot of 1886 and an acknowledgement of the strides made by the labor rights movement since then. For a smaller subset, May 1st is Loyalty Day, a day to pledge allegiance to the flag and reassert one's "love and devotion to the nation." It is of course no coincidence that the latter two celebrations fall on the same patch of temporal real estate -- Brooklyn's Loyalty Day was initiated by the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in 1948, according to a Brooklyn Eagle article, "to counteract Communist propaganda of Red May Day demonstrators and to provide an opportunity for faithful Americans to publicly express their loyalty to this nation and its institutions."



**LOYALTY DAY  
PICTURES BY  
DENIS  
CASTELLI  
PUTNAM COUNTY  
HISTORIAN**





**Putnam County Veteran's Memorial Park  
Gypsy Trail Road Carmel , NY**

**Admission FREE**

**Sunday, April 27th 2014**

**11 AM - 4 PM**

**Parade & Ceremony at 11:45 AM**

D.J. Music & Refreshments Served  
Putnam County Tug of War Championship  
Games for Children Games for Adults



**BRING THE FAMILY  
AND  
ENJOY CELEBRATING LOYALTY DAY  
WITH  
THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
EVENT SPONSORED BY  
PUTNAM COUNTY COUNCIL VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**

## 'Beannachtam na Feile Padraig!' Happy St. Patrick's Day!

On Sunday March 9, 2013 residents of the *Putnam County Senator Vincent Leibell Veterans' Residence* participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Mahopac. The Putnam County Veterans' Bus festooned with green & white ribbons as well as shamrocks, picked up the Veterans at the residence. Veteran Service Agency Director Karl Rohde was behind the wheel and joining the Veteran residents for the day were VSA Deputy Director Art Hanley; Chairman of the Putnam county Joint Veterans Council, Harry Sherblom; and USMC Vietnam Veteran Charlie Moore.



L to R Charlie Moore, Gene Simmons, Joe Marsh, Pat Brady, Gerry Caretta, Art Hanley & Karl Rohde

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell and Commissioner of Highways & Facilities Fred Pena stopped by to say hello as we waited for the start of the parade.



L to R Fred Pena, Art Hanley, Charlie Moore, MaryEllen Odell, Karl Rohde & Harry Sherblom

The Parade Grand Marshall for this year's parade, John J. Callaghan, is also a Veteran. John was born in Ardnawark, Barnesmore, County Donegal, Ireland. In February 1964 at the age of twenty, he immigrated to the United States and went to work for the New York Telephone Company. In June 1965 he was drafted into the United States Army. Serving with the 4th Division in Vietnam, he earned the Rank of

Sergeant and was separated from active duty in June 1967. He went back to work for the Telephone Company, retiring in 1995 after 31 years with the company. John is a member of V.F.W. Post 5491, Mahopac and American Legion Post 1080, Mahopac.

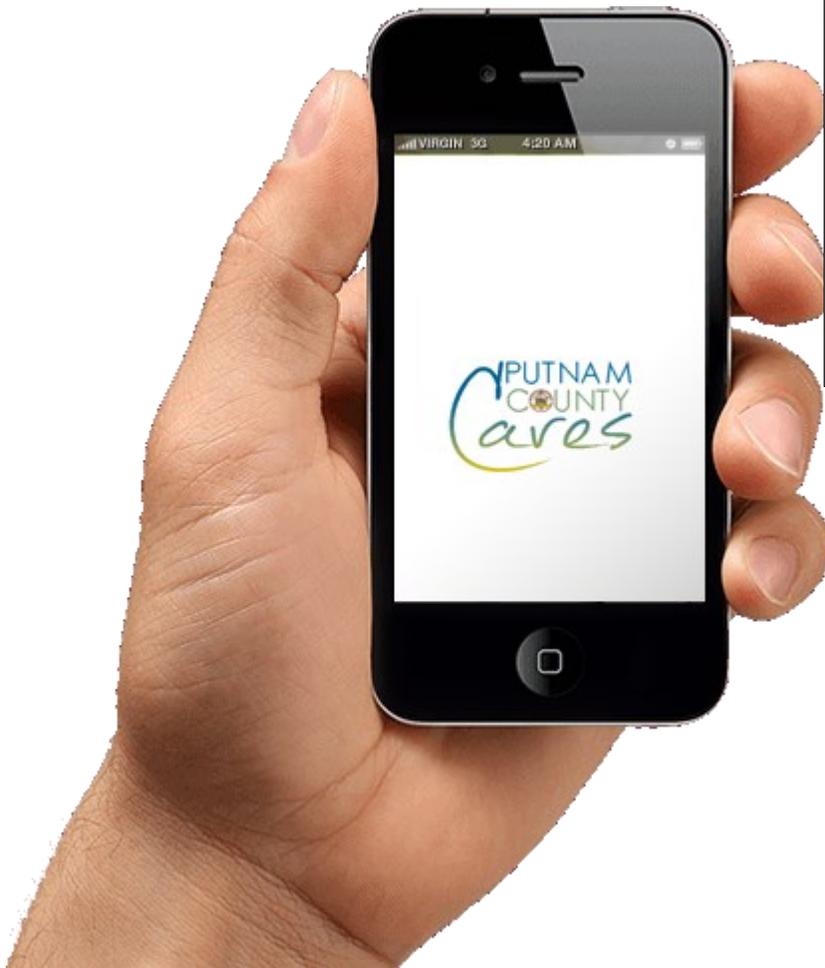
After the parade we enjoyed the hospitality of the Mahopac VFW Post #5491 who served up some delicious Corned Beef sandwiches along with potatoes and cabbage. While there we also enjoyed a performance by the Westchester Steamfitters Union Pipes and Drums.



*Art Hanley, Deputy Director*



A new online resource and free app for your Smartphone, "Putnam County Cares" includes a section called S.P.E.A.K – SUICIDE PREVENTION EDUCATION & AWARENESS KIT with a subsection which is directed at Veterans who are at risk. Thank you to the Putnam County Department of Social Services and the IT Department for taking our input and bringing this valuable tool to fruition.



Getting information to the public at the speed of life.

## S.P.E.A.K. – Suicide Prevention Education & Awareness KIT

### **IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911**

Talking to a friend or family member about their suicidal thoughts and feelings can be extremely difficult, but if you're unsure whether someone is suicidal, the best way to find out is to ask. You can't make a person suicidal by showing that you care. In fact, giving a suicidal person the opportunity to express his or her feelings can provide relief from loneliness and pent-up negative feelings, and may prevent a suicide attempt.

**"IT TAKES THE COURAGE & STRENGTH OF A WARRIOR TO ASK FOR HELP"**