



PUTNAM VETERAN'S REGISTER

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



Loyalty Day is described in the U.S. Code, Title 36 - Patriotic Societies and Observances, Section 162 as, The 1st day of May of each year is designated as Loyalty Day and is to be set aside as a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States of America and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom; and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on such day and inviting the people of the United States to observe such day, in schools and other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies.

City, more than 100,000 people rallied for America. In 1958 Congress enacted Public Law 529 proclaiming Loyalty Day a permanent fixture on the nation's calendar.

It is our hope that you can take time out of you busy day and celebrate with the VFW and other veterans service organizations. Look for a listing of Memorial Day Events in the next issue!

Please read the rest of this Newsletter there is vital information within it. We are on the verge of an epidemic of suicides among our veterans community. Please read the information and pass it along to veterans you may know or their families.

To my fellow veterans please let us at the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency help you cope with what ever problems you may have there is always a solution that is better then taking your own life.

Harold Rhode

Loyalty Day will be here soon. If you have never attended a Loyalty Day Jamboree you are missing out on a great day of patriotism and fun. It is the opening event of a trifecta of patriotic events: Loyalty Day, Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. It has been my honor to have been involved with veterans issues since 1988. In that time I have missed only one Loyalty Day Jamboree and for that one I was invited to attend a Loyalty Day Celebration in Saugerties NY. So in reality I have a perfect attendance.

Loyalty Day originally began as "Americanization Day" in 1921 as a counter to the Communists' May 1 celebration of the Russian Revolution. On May 1, 1930, 10,000 VFW members staged a rally at New York's Union Square to promote patriotism. Through a resolution adopted in 1949, May 1 evolved into Loyalty Day. Observances began in 1950 on April 28 and climaxed May 1 when more than five million people across the nation held rallies. In New York

Remember we receive compensation for our service not benefits or entitlements! - Marvin Jeffcoat





LOYALTY DAY

"Keeping America Proud"

LOYALTY DAY JAMBOREE



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

Admission **FREE**

Sunday, April 29th 2012

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**



The Michael T. Weber Auditorium
Putnam Hospital Center
666 Stoneleigh Avenue
Carmel, NY 10512

AGENDA

9:00 Registration & Breakfast

9:15 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mary Ellen O'Dell-Putnam County Executive

Michael J. Piazza, Jr.-Putnam County

Commissioner of Mental Health, Youth Bureau &
Social Services

Maria Iadoni-Area Director, Hudson Valley &
Westchester Chapters, American Fdn. for Suicide
Prevention

Barbara Bernstein, Ph.D., MPH-Co-Chair,
Westchester/Putnam Suicide Prevention Coalition/
Co-Chair, New York State Suicide Intervention
Skills Trainer Consortium (SIST)

9:50 Break

10:00 SafeTALK Training

SAFETALK

Is a half day training that can help you make a
difference...learn to identify persons with thoughts
of suicide and connect them to suicide first aid
resources.

Why Come to SafeTALK?

Most people with thoughts of suicide invite help. Often
these opportunities are missed, dismissed or
Avoided leaving people more alone and at greater risk.
In SafeTALK you will learn how to respond in ways that
provide practical help.

After training, participants should be able to:

- Challenge attitudes that inhibit open talk about suicide
- Recognize a person who might be having thoughts of suicide
- Engage them in direct and open talk about suicide
- Listen to the person's feelings about suicide to show that they are taken seriously
- Move quickly to connect them with someone trained in suicide intervention

• Acquire techniques for "self-care" and support for yourself when someone you care about is in crisis

Conference Planning Committee

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)-Hudson Valley Chapter

Child Advocacy Center of Putnam County

Mental Health Association in Putnam County

Putnam Hospital Center

Putnam County Departments of Mental Health, Social Services & Youth Bureau

Putnam County Veterans Service Agency

Putnam Independent Living Services

Westchester/Putnam Suicide Prevention Coalition

Conference Sponsors

Mental Health Association in Putnam County, Inc.

Putnam Hospital Center

The New York State Office of Mental Health

**Directions to Putnam Hospital Center
(845) 279-5711**

www.putnamhospitalcenter.org

"Troubling new data show there are an average of 950 suicide attempts each month by veterans who are receiving some type of treatment from the Veterans Affairs Department. Seven percent of the attempts are successful, and 11 percent of those who don't succeed on the first attempt try again within nine months."-ARMY TIMES

Given these stark statistics the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency is both eager and proud to team with those concerned with the mental health of all the citizens of Putnam to help with this national problem.

May 5, 2012

Registration-\$10 per person or \$8 ea for groups of 3 or more.*

(Continental Breakfast and refreshments)

Name

Agency:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Please make checks payable to MHA in Putnam and mail with registration form to MHA in Putnam-1620 Route 22-Brewster, NY 10509

fax-(845) 278-0600 email-mcastellano@mhaputnam.org

Registration deadline-Friday, April 27th, 2012-space is limited, please register early

- scholarships may be available, please call
 - (845) 278-7600, ext. 202 or more information
- CASAC credits may be available

SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW VETERANS, USE THE VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM



BY-
Brennan Mahoney
State Veterans' Counselor
bmahoney@veterans.ny.gov

Castle Point VAMC
(T, W, TH)
PO Box 633, Bldg 19,
Rm C210
Castle Point, NY 12511
845-831-2000 x5449
Putnam Veterans Service
Agency (M & F)
110 Old Route 6, Bldg 3
Carmel, NY 10512
845-808-1620

One thing all veterans should know is that we all need to support each other. Of course, veterans probably know this, and do this more than the general population, but we can do better! In order to ensure our veterans benefits are always there for us and our fellow veterans, we must keep them relevant and important in the eyes of Congress. Along these lines, to ensure our local healthcare is there for us, we

must ensure all veterans in the area, use it. So, if you know someone who does not use the VA healthcare system, have a conversation with them and let them know they should at least go in for an annual physical, once a year. This does two things: first, it keeps that veteran relevant in the VA healthcare system; second it keeps the local funding up so that our healthcare in this area stays funded and all veterans can easily access the benefits they have earned.

If you have excellent healthcare from your job or elsewhere, or you don't want to change to a VA doctor, this is OK. You can still be counted in the local VA healthcare system by seeing your primary

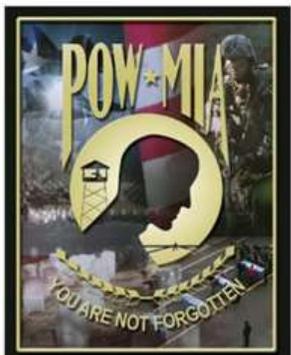
care physician, at least once a year for a physical. For the rest of your healthcare needs, you can still use your private doctor for most of your healthcare, but you will still be a relevant part of the VA healthcare system as well. You may even find VA healthcare more to your liking. VA tends to not overlook a test that private doctors may deem unimportant due to the cost of the test. For VA, by ordering the tests, they are ensuring that the local VA community will continue to have its funding in years to come. So, they may be less shy about ordering certain testing. Talk to you doctor about your healthcare needs and don't be afraid to bring up issues that may concern you.

Remember, that doctor works for you!

Soldier Missing in Action from Korean War Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced that the remains of a serviceman, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Cpl. Patrick R. Glennon of Rochester, N.Y., will be buried April 11, at Arlington National Cemetery. On Nov. 1, 1950, Glennon, and the G Company, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, were holding a defensive position along the Nammyon River near Unsan, North Korea, when they were attacked by Chinese forces. Glennon was listed as missing in action following the heavy fighting. In April 2007, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) handed over six boxes of remains of American service members to New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson and former

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi, who were visiting North Korea. The remains had been recovered from areas



near Unsan, where Glennon had been lost. Metal identification tags bearing Glennon's name, and other material evidence were included with the remains. To identify the remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA

Accounting Command and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools such as dental records and mitochondrial DNA -- which matched Glennon's cousins. Today, more than 7,900 Americans remain unaccounted-for from the Korean War. Identifications continue to be made from the remains that were returned to the United States, using forensic and DNA technology. For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO website at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call 703-699-1169.



“Joe yestiddy ya saved my life an’ I swore I’d pay ya back. Here’s my last pair of dry socks.”

Introducing Our New Deputy Director

My name is Art Hanley and I am the newest team member of the Putnam County Office of Veterans Services. Four generations of my family has served or is currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. I am passionate when it comes to Veterans and Veterans' issues and will do my very best to serve you, the Veteran. While my office hours may be part-time, I will be available via email fulltime. Please do not hesitate to send me an email if there is anything I can do to help you. My email is arthur.hanley@putnamcountyny.gov

As veterans you know that everything in the Armed Forces was about teamwork. I am asking you now to join us in a team effort to prevent Veteran Suicides. Statistics show that every eighty seconds a Veteran contemplates taking his or her own life. Every day eighteen Veterans do commit suicide. To fight this epidemic, the Veterans Administration has established a Suicide Text Helpline. Please add this number to your mobile phone contact list; **[Suicide Text Help Line 838255](tel:838255)**. If you or a fellow veteran is experiencing problems that cause one to consider suicide as an answer, please before you or they do anything rash, text 838255 for help.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

IT'S YOUR CALL

Confidential help for Veterans and their families

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to **838255**

Veteran Suicide Text Help Line is Now Operational

TEXT: 838255

Who: Any active Duty, Veteran or concerned Family member

What: Text will be answered by VA crisis center

When: 24/7

Why: Because 18 veterans suicides a day is not ok



The Mental Health Association in Putnam County



VA HEALTH CARE Defining EXCELLENCE in the 21st Century



As this article from the Putnam County Courier aptly announces the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency has been reaching out to other organizations and county offices to bring better care to our county's veterans!!!!



Disabled Call for More, Not Less

ERIC GROSS

Putnam's annual Legislative Forum attracted a large crowd to the county's Emergency Operation Center auditorium last Saturday morning when dozens of speakers called on elected and appointed officials to create and support disability related public policies.

Topics ranged from housing and transportation for the disabled, mental health services for seniors, to the needs of veterans returning home from the Middle East with catastrophic injuries, Section 8 housing, vocational opportunities for the handicapped and insurance reform.

A panel of officials including County Executive MaryEllen Odell, Commissioner of Social Services Michael Piazza, Health Director Rebecca Wittenberg, Assembly members Sandra Galef and Steve Katz, Putnam Legislator Sam Oliverio and representatives of Congresswoman Nan Hayworth and State Senator Greg Ball listened intently as speaker after speaker pleaded his or her case.

Karl Rohde of Lake Carmel, Putnam's Director of Veterans Affairs, told the large audience consisting of physically and developmentally challenged individuals as well as their caretakers and agency providers: "Veterans are returning home from battle with catastrophic wounds and multiple amputations. Due to medical technology

there is a 93 percent survival rate today overseas as compared to the 75 percent during Vietnam. If a soldier is denied disability status, Uncle Sam currently has a tremendous backlog—18 months for appeal—they are dying waiting for service. New York State and local governments like Putnam County must pick up the slack. Veterans cannot be neglected this way."

Former Putnam Health Director Loretta Molinari who now chairs the Special Needs Population Committee—a

subsidiary of the county's Disaster Preparedness Task Force, told the gathering that her panel focuses on individuals with special needs—those with physical or mental disabilities as well as the elderly and the young.

"In times of emergency people with special needs must be cared for. They cannot be left to fend for themselves in times of power outages, weather calamities or even influenza and anthrax outbreaks," she said.



ERIC GROSS

Loretta Molinari and Karl Rohde discuss needs of the disabled as well as veterans at last weekend's Legislative Forum.

PUTNAM COUNTY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

PUTNAM COUNTY
**SOCIAL SERVICES
AND MENTAL HEALTH**



PUTNAM COUNTY
OFFICE FOR THE DISABLED

PUTNAM COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE AGING

PUTNAM COUNTY
CLERK'S OFFICE

RETURN THE F.A.V.O.R.
(FIND & ASSIST VETS OF RECORD)

