



AN E-MAIL SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY

VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY

THANK YOU MR. PRESIDENT

In 1988 one hundred and seventy four years after the Treaty of Ghent ended hostilities between the United States and Great Britain 28 soldiers who were missing in action were returned to be interred in the VA Cemetery in Bath New York. These soldiers were among the 1,900 Americans who lost their lives in the Niagara Campaign during the War of 1812. This campaign was fought in an area near Lake Erie in Canada called Snake Hill. The bodies were uncovered in 1988 by a builders back hoe. The Canadian government quickly designated that Snake Hill was an archeological site. During the dig the remains of 28 Americans were identified largely by the brass and pewter buttons found with the bones.

Each soldier was given their own hearse as they crossed over the Peace Bridge to begin the 100 mile trip the Bath, NY. Their journey would finally be over. They would be granted eternal peace and the thanks of a grateful nation.

That year I read an article about these soldier and the final sojourn they would make. Serendipitously the article appeared just prior to my addressing Veterans, family members and guests at a POW/MIA Ceremony at the Carmel VFW. While preparing my remarks a co-worker came up to me curious as to what I was doing. I explained everything to him. His remarks would steel my

resolve to never forget our nations POW/MIA's and to work diligently in educating the public regarding this issue. What were these awe inspiring words? Well roughly he stated "Why do you Veterans waste your time on this. Get over it" or words to that effect.

We are now in 2018 and there are still 7,699 Service Members unaccounted for from the Korean War. Fifty Five caskets with the possible remains of American Service Members returned to US soil on August 1, 2018 as the American Air Force C-17 Globemaster touched down at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii. What an outstanding day! While there could be remains of Service Members from our Korea War allies there is much hope that many are Americans. It has been reported that among the remains was a dog tag. There is not report as to what nation this dog tag comes from. However if one family, American or otherwise, has been given notice that there is some indication that the loved one they have longed for these many years may be contained in one of the caskets resting on US soil then the endeavor has been more than worthwhile.

So thank you Mr. President if for nothing else but bringing closure to a single family.

Karl



**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

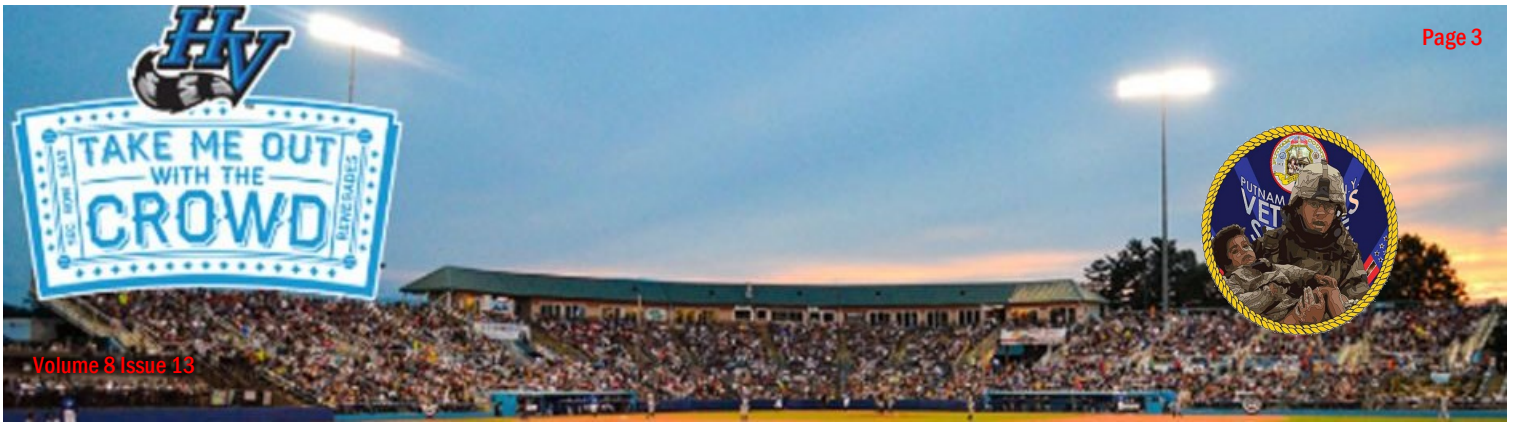
ART AND KARL ARE VA CERTIFIED SERVICE OFFICERS

NEW YORK STATE MEDAL OF HONOR PARADE



It was a beautiful day for a parade! Gold Star Mothers (above left) and members of the “Greatest Generation” (photos above right and bottom center) were among those who came out to pay tribute to those from New York State who were awarded our nation’s highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor. In the center photo above, two recipients of the Medal of Honor, Paul Bucha and Robert O’Malley acknowledge the cheers of those watching the parade. ~Art





Volume 8 Issue 13

**MVP Picnic: All Food, Soda and
Water included Ice Cream Sundae Bar
Veterans and Veteran's Family Members
Limited to First 75 Veterans "PUTNAM COUNTY VETERANS ONLY"
Call 808-1620 or E-Mail putnamvets@putnamcountyny.gov for
Reservations 2 weeks prior to game four tickets per family**



**ONLY
4
TICKETS
PER VETERAN**



Forever GI Bill Expands VA Educational Benefits

WASHINGTON — Effective Aug. 1, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) implemented 15 more provisions of the Harry W.

Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also referred to as the Forever GI Bill.

These provisions, in addition to the 13 implemented since the law was signed less than a year ago, will have an immediate and positive impact on Veterans and their families using VA benefits to pursue their educational goals.

“We are excited to get the word out about implementation of the provisions,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “From the day the Forever GI Bill was signed into law, VA, in collaboration with Veterans service organizations, state approving agencies and school certifying officials, has taken an expansive approach to ensure earned benefits are provided to Veterans in a timely, high-quality and efficient way.”

Some of the provisions that began Aug. 1 include:

Recipients of a Purple Heart awarded on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are now eligible for full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for up to 36 months, if not already entitled.

Military and Veteran families who have lost a family member can now reallocate transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

Additional Guard and Reserve service now counts toward Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility.

Post-9/11 GI Bill students may now receive monthly housing allowance for any days they are not on active duty, rather than having to wait until the next month; and

Expansion of the Yellow Ribbon Program, which makes additional funds available for GI Bill students, now covers more students.

More provisions are scheduled related to science, technology, engineering and math benefit extensions; increased benefit levels; a pilot program for high-technology training geared toward “upskilling” Veterans to enter the workforce quickly; and another expansion of the Yellow

Ribbon Program, which will be implemented by Aug. 1, 2022.

For more information, visit the Forever GI Bill – Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act page.

Visit the Education and Training webpage for more information. For questions about GI Bill benefits, call the Education Call Center at

888-442-4551 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CST) Monday through Friday. Join the conversation via Facebook or follow Veterans Benefits

Administration on Twitter.





A Day of Golf For Our Veterans

Wednesday, August 29th 2018

Putnam County Golf Course
187 Hill Street, Mahopac, NY 10541

Registration 7:30AM

Starts 9AM*

*Minimum of 72 Golfers Needed

\$130 Per Person

Includes: *Continental breakfast, 1 round of golf, BBQ lunch post golf*

Sign up at EventCaddy*

<https://app.eventcaddy.com/events/a-day-of-golf-veterans-fundraiser-28/>

*A credit card fee will be applied to each transaction

Please call 845-225-1011 and ask for Nicole, if you have any questions

No Refunds & No Rain Date

All Proceeds To Benefit Our Veterans Campaign



DNA/MIA

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. Within this mission, we search for missing personnel from World War II (WWII), the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars, and other recent conflicts. Our research and operational missions include coordination with hundreds of countries and municipalities around the world.

As this map shows, at present, more than 82,000 Americans remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the 82,000 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.).

With the return of possibly missing US Service Members it is if you are the relative of someone who is MIA from the

Korean War to get DNA samples to the Department of Defense.

If you are the relative of a missing service member, you should contact your Service Casualty Office (SCO) for information on how to provide a DNA sample. The SCO will provide you with a donor kit that contains donor consent forms, three buccal (cheek) swabs, and a shipping envelope. All you have to do is fill out the paperwork, rub the inside of your cheek with the swabs, place everything in the envelope and return the sample to Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL). That's it! It's a completely painless process. If you are a family member that is not eligible for a DNA donation, there are still ways you can help. AFDIL is able to recover DNA from personal materials such as baby hair, baby teeth, hair-brushes, service covers and envelopes belonging to the missing person. If you

have any of these items, or believe you have something else that might be helpful, please contact your SCO for information on how to send these in for testing. However, the DNA associated with these references are highly degraded and will need to be processed under casework conditions (duplicate processing), which is labor intensive and slower than buccal swab processing. Once testing is complete,

the items will be returned to you. It is important to note that DNA testing can be a destructive process and AFDIL will attempt to limit the damage to alternative references. For example, with envelopes AFDIL will not damage the letter from your loved one, but will need to possibly take a cutting of the envelope flap or cut the stamp off to get at the potential DNA. Similarly, with service covers, AFDIL will swab the inside of the hat band and, if needed, may cut a small piece of the hat band if the swabbing does not work. It is for this reason that AFDIL will only test these alternative references as a last resort when no other viable reference is available.

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-DPMAA website



OEF/OIF Veterans

Were you exposed to a blast wave or explosion while deployed?

- Insomnia
- Irritability
- Difficulty concentrating
- Trouble remembering



Braxx VA Medical Center (IRB Approval) 3/16 to 1/16/15

If so, you may be eligible for a study investigating the effects of mTBI and PTSD.

Study procedures can be planned around the participant's schedule. Typically the study can be completed in 5 visits that include an interview with a psychologist, blood draws, and memory testing.

You will be reimbursed for your time and travel.

For information please call Carly at (718)741-4000 x 6246

James J. Peters VAMC, Bronx, NY
PI: Janine Flory, PhD; VA #FLO-13-039

Are you over the age of 50 and interested in helping us research aging?



We are seeking veterans and non-veterans to participate in a study investigating how life experiences affect the aging process in the brain and body.

You will be compensated for your time.

Study includes psychological, biological, and neurological assessments scheduled over two visits at the James J. Peters VAMC and two visits at Columbia University.

For more information call Carly at (718) 584-9000 ext. 6246

PI: Rachel Yehuda, PhD; VA # YEH-17-16

LOOKING FOR HEALTHY OEF/OIF VETERANS

If you are between 20- 60 years of age, you may be eligible to participate in a cutting edge research study comparing the psychology and biology of veterans with and without PTSD.



You will be compensated for your time.

Study includes psychological and biological assessments scheduled over three visits at the James J. Peters VAMC,

For more information call Carly at (718) 584-9000 ext. 6246

PI: Rachel Yehuda, PhD; VA # YEH-16-03



Please join us Tuesday, August 7th at
The New York Riders Purple Heart Day Ceremony

Ceremony begins promptly at 7 p.m.
Located at Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park
(201 Gipsy Trail Rd, Carmel, New York 10512)



*If you are a Purple Heart recipient and will be in attendance at this ceremony, please Facebook message us your name to have it added to a Senate Proclamation being presented. You will be given a copy of the proclamation to keep. Or please call (845)-200-9740 and ask for Judy in regards to adding your name.



THE VIETNAM VETERANS TRAVELING WALL RETURNS TO PUTNAM
OCTOBER 4-7, 2018