

Putnam Veterans SITREP



TRAVELING WALL SPECIAL EDITION IV

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



THE WALL

As has become our practice when the replica of the Vietnam Veterans Monument graces Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park we will be reading the names on the wall continuously from 12 Noon on October 4th through 3 PM On

Sunday when we take the Wall down to go on its way to another community.

When we begin to read the names on the 4th we will start by reading the names of the twelve Putnam County Residents whose names are etched on the Wall. Then at 12 Noon each day the Wall is here who ever is reading the names will read those 12 names again.

A special thanks to Art Hanley, Deputy Director of the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency. While researching the names of Putnam County residents who were killed in Vietnam he discovered an error in the numbers we had used the previous 3 times the Wall was here. We listed 11 Service Members from Putnam who are on the Wall. Art discovered a 12th name. Keith W. Livermore who was actually the third Putnam resident to be killed in Vietnam.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall

CARMEL

MICHAEL W MC DONALD

February 22, 1966

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall

PATTERSON

EDWARD I STARR

December 30, 1966

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall

Garrison

KEITH W LIVERMORE

August 17, 1967

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall

PUTNAM VALLEY

ROBERT V VINSCOTSKI

January 4, 1968

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall

PUTNAM VALLEY

ROBERT C GILLEN

January 6, 1968

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall

Brewster

KENNETH R TOTTEN Jr

March 30, 1968

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall

PATTERSON

JAMES C FOSTER

February 19, 1968

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall

PATTERSON

WILLIAM H KEELER

March 24, 1969

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall

CARMEL

FRANK J MARCONI

January 23, 1969

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall

MAHOPAC

WILLIAM T BUSHEY

September 15, 1969

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall

MAHOPAC

WILLIAM A TODD

March 29, 1972

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall

CARMEL

HARRY R LAGERWALL

December 21, 1972

22 Veterans Commit Suicide Every Day.

Volume 8 Issue 16



Suicide Prevention...
Our Community Working Together
Wednesday, October 24, 2018
9:00am-12:30pm

Hosted by: The Mental Health Association in Putnam County, Inc.
and Putnam Hospital Center
In the Michael T. Weber Auditorium
Putnam Hospital Center
670 Stoneleigh Avenue
Carmel, NY 10512

AGENDA

9:00 Registration & Breakfast

9:15 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Megan Castellano, MPA-Executive Director, Mental Health Association in Putnam County, Inc.
Co-Chair, Putnam County Suicide Prevention Task Force

MaryEllen Odell-Putnam County Executive

Michael J. Piazza, Jr.-Putnam County Commissioner of Mental Health, Youth Bureau & Social Services

9:30 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

On 9/11/2018 I began a veteran suicide awareness event that will end on 11/11/18 Veterans Day. Each day at noon I try to walk for 22 minutes. Over the few days I have been doing this 6 other people have joined me. On different days. Any who reads this are welcomed. However a better way to create awareness is for each of you take part in a Safetalk training to help create a community of awareness.. Please consider signing up for this important training. Both Art and I will be trainers.

Karl

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	22	22	22	22	22
16	22	22	19	22	22	22
22	22	25	26	27	28	29
30						

This training is being offered at no charge but pre-registration is required as space is extremely limited-no walk-ins will be accepted

Continental Breakfast and materials will be provided

Name

Agency:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Mail, fax or email registration to MHA in Putnam-2505 Carmel Avenue, Suite 212-Brewster, NY 10509

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

Registration deadline-Monday, October 15, 2018-space is limited, please register early

please call (845) 278-7600, ext. 202 or more information

VIETNAM VETERAN

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29
VIETNAM

During World War II, the Japanese Imperial Army occupied France's long-time colony of French Indochina. Japan nominally held Indochina until their surrender in August 1945. The occupation was opposed by a group of resistance fighters known as the Viet Minh, or "Vietnamese Independence League," and led by Ho Chi Minh and Vo Nguyen Giap, among others. As early as July 1945, the United States sent Office of Strategic Services (OSS) agents (the precursor organization to the CIA) to parachute into Vietnam and assist the Viet Minh in their guerrilla actions against the Japanese and Vichy French by providing weapons, supplies, and training. Americans went on to have an active role in influencing the course of Vietnamese history for the next three decades.

On the day the Japanese officially surrendered to the Allies, Ho Chi Minh declared the nation of Vietnam to be independent and free of French domination, and the Viet Minh took control over the government in Hanoi. When they refused to yield that control back to France—who demanded its colony be returned—it eventually led to the First Indochina War between the Viet Minh and the French colonial forces. While the United States later supported France in that war (primarily because U.S. leaders feared that Ho Chi Minh and his followers were operating as proxies for Soviet power in Southeast Asia), in 1945, the Cold War was not yet an omnipresent concern and the United States was inclined to support Vietnamese independence. Albert Peter Dewey, then a Major with the OSS, was in Vietnam as part of a team searching for American World War II POWs and MIAs, but also separately on a clandestine mission to gather intelligence on the various political factions vying for control of Indochina after the war.

Dewey was born in Chicago, Illinois in

1916. He became a journalist for the Chicago Daily News in 1939 and was assigned as a correspondent in Paris. When Nazi Germany invaded Poland, beginning World War II, he first enlisted with the Polish Army before eventually returning to Paris and escaping the continent back to the United States in 1940. He enlisted in the U.S. Army after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and he served as an intelligence officer mostly with the OSS for the rest of the war. In one of his most famous actions, Dewey parachuted into occupied France five days before the D-Day invasion of June 1944 to assist the French resistance.

It was his experiences as an intelligence officer that the OSS believed qualified him to lead their mission in Vietnam in 1945. In Saigon, he quickly garnered the enmity of the British and French leadership in Vietnam due to his open sympathies with the cause of the Viet Minh. So much so, that the British commander eventually ordered him to leave Vietnam because Dewey had refused to stop flying the American flag from his jeep as he drove around town.

refused to stop flying the American flag from his jeep as he drove around town.

On September 26, 1945, Dewey and another OSS officer, Captain Herbert J. Bluechel, were driving to the airport for Dewey's flight out of the country. The jeep they were in did not bear Dewey's customary American flag. Along a narrow road, they ran into a Viet Minh road block, where Dewey shouted in French at the Viet Minh soldiers manning it, demanding they move aside. The Viet Minh soldiers, mistaking Dewey for a French officer, promptly opened fire. Bluechel managed to avoid injury and escape the area on foot, but Dewey was killed. He was the first American fatal casualty in post-World War II Vietnam.

A. Peter Dewey's body was not located after his death. He was likely buried in secret by Viet Minh soldiers fearful of reprisal for having accidentally killed an American. He is, however, memorialized in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on his parents' headstone. His name is not listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., because casualties in Vietnam were not officially recognized as a result of the war until

1955.¹

¹David G. Marr, *Vietnam: State, War, and Revolution, 1945-1946* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2013), 291-293. The Viet Minh Southern Executive Committee confirmed this mistake in an investigation, but feared repercussions and subsequently kept the results secret for decades thereafter; Ronald H. Spector, *Advice and Support: The Early Years, 1941-1960*, United States Army in Vietnam (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, 1985), 65-67; Arthur J. Dommen, *The Indochinese Experience of the French and the Americans: Nationalism and Communism in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2002), 96-123; Geoffrey C. Gunn, *Rice Wars in Colonial Vietnam: The Great Famine and the Viet Minh Road to Power* (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, Publishers, 2014), 210; Spencer C. Tucker, ed. *The Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War: A Political, Social, and Military History*, (2nd edition; Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2011), 270, 290; George C. Herring, *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975* (4th edition; New York, McGraw-Hill: 2002), 3, 6.

The First and the Last

The first American soldier killed in the Vietnam War was Air Force T-Sgt. Richard B. Fitzgibbon Jr. He is listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having a casualty date of June 8, 1956. His name was added to the Wall on Memorial Day 1999.

Richard B. Fitzgibbon Jr. was killed June 08, 1956 his son Richard B. Fitzgibbon III was KIA September 07, 1965.

The last American soldier killed in the Vietnam War was Kelton Rena Turner, an 18-year old Marine. He was killed in action on May 15, 1975, two weeks after the evacuation of Saigon, in what became known as the Mayaguez incident. Others list Gary L. Hall, Joseph N. Hargrove and Danny G. Marshall as the last to die in Vietnam. These three US Marines Corps veterans were mistakenly left behind on Koh Tang Island during the Mayaguez incident. They were last seen together but unfortunately to date, their fate is unknown. They are located on panel 1W, lines 130 - 131.

Lt. Col. Dewey's name would not appear on the wall because his death occurred prior to the recognized date of the war's start.

MEMORIAL DESIGN AND ARRANGEMENT OF NAMES

WEST PANELS

May 25, 1968 - May 5, 1975

EAST PANELS

June 8, 1956 - May 25, 1968

70W 69W 68W

3W 2W 1W 1E 2E 3E

68E 69E 70E



**Often before, during or even after an event
honoring**

Veterans we are asked:

“How can I help?”

We need donations to help with this great event

**We need people or organizations or businesses to
sponsor tables to help offset the costs. We need
sponsors**

**for the USO Show and the
American Veterans Museum**

(sponsoring a table is like sponsoring a golf hole

Your name will be on the table)

Call 845-278-VETS (8387) to donate



**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**

CALL FOR CLAIMS APPOINTMENT





Carmel Rotary Club

Presents

Fall Line Dancing

with Instructor **Jill Weiss** from **J. K. Shuffles**

Where: VFW Hall, Gleneida Ave, Carmel
When: Friday October 19th
7pm - 10pm
What: All the Line Dancing fun your feet can take! Instructor Jill Weiss will lead attendees of all levels through some fun and boot-stompin' dances. Drinks and light fare are included with your ticket and we will have a **50/50 raffle!**

**TICKETS ARE ONLY \$20 IN ADVANCE OR
\$25 AT THE DOOR! Get your tickets at:**
carmelrotaryclubny.eventbrite.com

Space is limited, so reserve your tickets early!



All proceeds will benefit the
**Joseph P. Dwyer
Veterans Peer Support Project.**

Come out and support our Veterans!