



COUNTY OF ROCKLAND
VETERANS SERVICE
AGENCY NEWSLETTER

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www.rockvets.com

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MEMORIAL DAY 1948 – NYACK MEMORIAL PARK



Photo Information - Nyack Memorial Day in the middle of the last century, 1948.

The photo is from the

steps of the stone memorial, which connects the upper park with the lower park on the Hudson River in Nyack. I lived three doors down from that park - at 89 Piermont Avenue. The southern boundary of the park was what we referred to as the "brook," which runs under the village from the old pond, a spot that is now the Best Western Inn. That brook isn't natural...

In the early days of the Village history, that brook ran west from the old pond into the West Nyack swamp. However, an enterprising early Dutch settler changed the direction down through the village to help turn water mills, and help industry grow. Every few years Mother Nature shows us why she wanted the brook to go west and not east. You can see from the photo the eastern boundary stops well short of where it is today at the river's edge. In the middle of the 1950's the park was expanded aka - landfilled. You'll also notice there's no Tappan Zee Bridge. This was before the first one. I don't even know if they had started discussing that yet. But it has been land-filled, and for that matter, most of Nyack east of Piermont Avenue is landfill. The property has changed hands over the years. The Depew family had owned it at one point and raised roses. There were green houses on the property at that time.

The Depew family gave the land to the Soldiers and Sailors Association, which morphed into what we know today as the American Legion - Post 310 on Piermont Avenue. Eventually, after WW I, the veteran's organization deeded the park to the Village with the understanding that it would remain a park and not be used for any commercial purposes. The monument in the foreground was built in the 1920's to honor those who had fought and died in WWI. Nine trees encircle the upper Park. They are in memory of the ten men from Nyack killed in World War I. Why 10 people but only 9 trees? Two of those killed were brothers. Charles and Raymond Blauvelt. Today's American Legion Post is named in their honor. I don't know if I was at that ceremony in the photo. At the time, I would have been a year and a half old. But I've been at a lot of them since, and the good Lord willing, I'll be at the one this year - on May 27th. Hope you are too. - Jerry

KOREAN WAR 60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION EVENT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

- This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice: Korean War Veterans Recognition Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice. KW60 will host a major event in Washington, D.C. for Korean War Veterans through collaboration with KWVA and other Veterans Service Organizations. The event will take place on July 27th, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. To view a video on their website for the Commemoration and other information about the Korean War, visit this link: <http://www.koreanwar60.com/>
- All Korean War veterans are invited to the Commemoration in Washington, D.C. To request your invitation to the event, fill out the form at this link: <http://www.koreanwar60.com/webform/heroes-remembered-60th-anniversary-korean-war-armistice>
- All veterans who served during the Korean conflict are eligible for an official Department of Defense Certificate of Appreciation – whether you served in Korea or stateside during the time of the Conflict. The KW60 Committee hopes to locate as many Korean War vets as possible. In addition to the certificate, any Korean War veteran who would like a free book on the history of the Korean War, need only request it. Click on this link to request an official Department of Defense Certificate of Appreciation: <http://www.koreanwar60.com/webform/official-dod-certificate-appreciation-form-o>
- Voice of America – video interview with General Clark about the 60th Commemoration Event and Committee. <http://www.voakorea.com/media/video/1599812.html>
- Senate Resolution designating 2012-2013 as “Year of the Korean War Veteran” - S.Res. 602--112th Congress: A resolution designating 2012-2013 as the “Year of the Korean War Veteran” see this link: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/sres/602>
- This link will bring you the Timeline of Korean War Events – Important Events of the Korean War – Dates of Battles and other information of interest: <http://www.koreanwar60.com/timeline-korean-war-events>
- List of the 135 who Korean War Medal of Honor Recipients: <http://www.koreanwar60.com/korean-war-medal-of-honor-recipients>

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND VILLAGE OF AIRMONT HONOR MARINE CPL. STEVE VAHAVIOLOS



The Rockland County Detachment of the Marine Corps League, along with the Village of Airmont and Mayor Veronica Boesch, will hold a ground-breaking ceremony to honor a U.S. Marine Corporal who was Killed in Action in Iraq. The memorial, to honor the memory of Cpl. Steve Vahaviolos, will be a gazebo built by members of the Marine Corps League, with the supplies and materials needed to complete the site donated entirely by Home Depot, Beckerle Lumber and landscaper Steve Slackman. The Marine Corporal's parents, Gus and Vasiliki Vahaviolos, Marine Commandant John Leighton and a squad of Marines from MCLRC, are expected to be at the groundbreaking ceremony on Sunday, May 26th at 3:00 p.m. For further information, contact: Sam Papa, Judge Advocate, MCLRC at 845-548-8898.

MAKIN ISLAND VIDEO – THE MARINE CORPS BRINGS HOME ITS TROOPS

The Marine Corps brings home its troops: Makin Island video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=C6f_FvZpm3g

NRHS NAVY JR. ROTC AND SPRING SPORTS TEAMS BENEFIT

The North Rockland High School Navy Junior ROTC and the Spring Sports Teams are hosting a spaghetti dinner to support the Wounded Warrior Project. It will be held on Thursday, May 2nd, 2013 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Main Cafeteria of North Rockland High School. No charge for children 4 and under, \$5.00 for children 5 to 12 years, and \$10.00 for adults. Tickets are available from NR JrROTC cadets, spring sports team members, or at the door on the evening of the event.

LACROSSE TEAMS TO HOST FUNDRAISER FOR ADOPT-A-PLATOON

Clarkstown South Boys Lacrosse Club, Nyack High School, and Patriots Youth lacrosse teams are hosting an all-day fundraiser for the Adopt-A-Platoon program this Saturday, May 4, 2013 at Clarkstown South High School. At the Varsity game, they will have a special opening ceremony in honor of our men and women overseas.

VIETNAM VETERANS ANNUAL PIG ROAST

VVA #333 will host their Annual Pig Roast on June 1st this year, noon to 6:00 p.m. Advance sales tickets are available through May 25th by sending a check for \$25.00 to VVA #333, P.O. Box 243, New City NY 10956. After that time, tickets are \$30.00. The Annual Pig Roast will be held at Kearsing-Edwards American Legion Post #1600, Station Road, Pomona, NY 10970.

UPCOMING MARINE CORPS LEAGUE EVENTS

- Saturday, May 4th, 2013 – 3:00 p.m. Change Of Command Ceremony At Marine Corps Hangar, Stewart Air National Guard Base, Newburgh, NY. Detachment will present a plaque to outgoing CO, Col. Peter Meyer.
- Saturday, May 18th 2014 – Fundraiser at De Cicco's In New City 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 25th, 2013 – Congers Memorial Day Parade. – Assembly at 10:00 a.m. Parade Steps Off At 10:30 a.m.
- Memorial Service at the VMA Building on Lake Road following the Parade.
- Sunday, May 26th, 2013 – 3:00 p.m. Ground-breaking ceremony for gazebo in Suffern in honor of Marine Cpl. Steve Vahaviolos in the Village of Airmont, New York

AMERICAN LEGION AND VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS - MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

- Saturday, May 25th, at 9:00 a.m. – American Legion Post 310 and VFW Post 9215 working together will place American Flags on Veterans' graves at Oak Hill Cemetery.
- Monday, May 27th – Memorial Day Service with American Legion Post 310 and VFW Post 9215 at the GAR Monument, Oak Hill Cemetery, Nyack, 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, May 27th - Memorial Day Parade - 11:00 a.m. Nyack.
- Monday, May 27th – Lion's Park service, Western Highway, Blauvelt with Firing Detail and Color Guard. Assembly is at 11:30. Ceremony starts at 12:00 noon.

ROCKLAND COUNTY MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

- Sunday, May 26th Fred Loescher Veterans Cemetery, Brick Church Road, Monsey, NY – starting at 12:00 noon
- Sunday, May 26th, Gary Onderdonk Veterans Cemetery at Rockland Community College, Suffern, NY
- Sunday, May 26th, Korean War Veterans Memorial at Rockland Community College, Suffern, NY

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, CHAPTER #333 ANNUAL WATCHFIRES

For those who never came home, and the lost patrol still out... Annual Watchfires Vigil will be held, with ceremony starting at 11:30 p.m. Watchfires will be lit at midnight of May 29th, lasting throughout the day of the Traditional Memorial Day, May 30th, 2012 at the following locations:

- Piermont Pier, Piermont, NY
- Clausland Mountain, Orangeburg, NY
- Eugene Levy Park, Route 45, Pomona, NY
- Bowline Park in Haverstraw, NY

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS AFFECTING VETERANS

Congress/the President and Chained CPI information: How Much Would Your Benefits Be Cut? Link to AARP chart to find out:

<http://www.vva.org/WebWeekly/html/images/ChainedCPI-infographic.pdf>

https://act.aarp.org/CCPI/index-landing.html?cmp=RDRCT-WHULS_MAR12_013

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE 2014 DEFENSE BUDGET LINK:

Information about the 2014 Budget Proposal by the Dept. of Defense

http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2013/0413_budget/

<http://www.defense.gov/news/rss/>

VA SILENT ON EXEC BONUSES FOR MANIPULATED DATA

A year after testifying that some executives received bonuses by manipulating appointment data for veterans needing mental health care, a former Department of Veterans Affairs hospital administrator said officials have avoided the issue "like the plague." Click on this link to: [Read More](#)

VA EXPECTS OBAMACARE TO BOOST HEALTHCARE NUMBERS

Apr 24, 2013 Military.com| by Bryant Jordan

When the Affordable Care Act -- better known as Obamacare -- goes into full effect next year, the Department of Veterans Affairs expects to see its veteran patient population grow by about 66,000, a senior VA official told Congress on Wednesday.



To be able to meet the influx, the VA is asking Congress for an additional \$85 million. The VA estimates there are about 1.3 million uninsured veterans in the U.S. eligible for VA healthcare, and many will be looking at selecting a health insurance option under the new law next year. Read more:

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2013/04/24/va-expects-obamacare-to-boost-healthcare-numbers.html?comp=7000023317843&rank=6>

VA LAUNCHES WOMEN VETS' HOTLINE

1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636)

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a new hotline — 1-855-va-women — to receive and respond to questions from veterans, their families, and caregivers about the many VA services and resources available to women veterans. The service began accepting calls on March 27, 2013.

The hotline is staffed by knowledgeable VA employees who can provide information about benefits, including health-care services for women. Callers can be linked to information on claims, education, or health care appointments, as well as information about VA cemeteries and memorial benefits. Staff can answer urgent questions and provide referrals to homeless and mental health services, as well as provide vet center information. To read more: <http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/womenshealth/wvcc.asp>

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED TO DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

RAO article posted on April 15, 2013 – by [Donnie La Curan](#)

ARLINGTON, Va., April 15, 2013 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ — As the backlog of pending disability claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) soars to nearly one million, today Concerned Veterans for America (CVA) is launching a new website ([MillionVetBacklog.com](#)) and campaign to mobilize veterans and all Americans to demand accountability at VA. The new push calls [...] • [Continue Reading →](#)

A SALUTE TO SILENCE: NATIONAL TINNITUS AWARENESS WEEK IS MAY 19-25, 2013

Posted on April 16, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

PORTLAND, Ore., April 16, 2013 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ — The American Tinnitus Association (ATA) announced today that National Tinnitus Awareness Week (TAW) will be celebrated May 19 – 25, 2013. This year, ATA is saluting members of the United States military and all our veterans who have selflessly served, because they suffer from tinnitus disproportionately from the [...] • [Continue Reading →](#)

VA TO EXPEDITE CLAIMS DECISIONS FOR VETERANS WHO HAVE WAITED A YEAR OR MORE

Posted on April 23, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it is implementing an initiative to expedite compensation claims decisions for Veterans who have waited one year or longer. Effective today, VA claims raters will make provisional decisions on the oldest claims in inventory, which will allow Veterans to begin collecting compensation benefits more quickly, if [...] • [Continue Reading →](#)

CLAIMS INITIATIVE FACT SHEET

Posted on April 23, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing an initiative to expedite compensation claims decisions for Veterans who have

waited one year or longer. Effective April 19, the VA will begin to make provisional decisions on the oldest claims in inventory, which will allow Veterans to begin collecting compensation benefits more quickly, if eligible. This [...]

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FORMER NAVY SEALS LAUNCH COMPANY TO CONNECT EMPLOYERS WITH SPECIAL OPERATIONS PERSONNEL TRANSITIONING TO CIVILIAN LIFE

Posted on May 1, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 1, 2013 /PRNewswire/ — Two former [Navy SEALs](#) launched a new company aimed at connecting private sector employers with former special operations personnel this week. ExBellum is led by former [Navy SEALs](#) Judson Kauffman and Joe Wolfel and is the premier resource for companies seeking to hire former special operations personnel and [...] • [Continue Reading →](#)

NEW VA PTSD STUDY: MEN VERSUS WOMEN

According to an article published on April 18 by VA staff writer Tom Cramer, researchers at the VA are attempting to discern whether women veterans are more susceptible to developing PTSD than their male counterparts, and if so, why? Read the article at: <http://www.va.gov/health/newsfeatures/2013/april/ptsd-study-men-versus-women.asp>

BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS

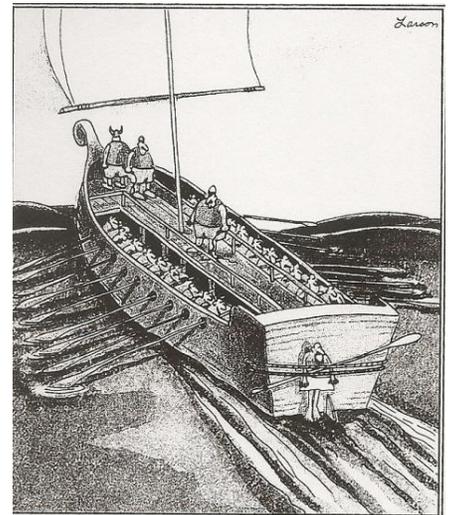
H.R.543 Latest Title: **Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013.** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Gibson, Christopher P. [NY-19] (introduced 2/6/2013) Latest Major Action: 2/15/2013 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

To support this bill and/or contact your legislators send a message via [http://capwiz.com/naus/issues/alert/?alertid=62615916&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/naus/issues/alert/?alertid=62615916&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

VIETNAM VET STILL LIVING IN 'NAM 44 YEARS LATER

Unclaimed – Vietnam veteran tells story after being left behind for 44 years. Read about it at this link:

<http://freedomoutpost.com/2013/04/unclaimed-vietnam-veteran-tells-story-in-new-film-after-being-left-behind-for-44-years/>



The better-equipped slave ships, of course, always carried a spare.

PTSD AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Fox News anchor Brian Kilmeade interview with Stacy Bare – a veteran who is trying to help those dealing with PTSD and traumatic brain injury symptoms.

http://www.sierraclub.org/military/downloads/062512_kilmeade_StacyBare.MP3

WOUNDED SOLDIERS HOPE TO INSPIRE BOSTON VICTIMS

Wounded Soldiers recovering have a message they'd like to pass on to the Boston bombing victims: "You're not alone."

Read more here:

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2013/04/26/wounded-soldiers-hope-to-inspire-boston-victims.html?ESRC=eb.nl>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[VETFAMSA] Part-Time 6 month Job Opening for a Veteran

Applications due by Monday, May 13th.

Applicants need to be post-9/11 veterans. Paid Position: Job Announcement

Trauma and Resiliency Resources, Inc. (TRR) is searching for an applicant to be part of the next The Mission Continues Fellowship class. This is a paid position - 20 hours per week for 26 weeks. The Fellowship is paid by The Mission Continues and the Fellow works directly with TRR. The application is due Monday, May 13th. (We will help get this application completed - TRR's sections are ready to go.) TRR's applicant/fellow will be asked to:

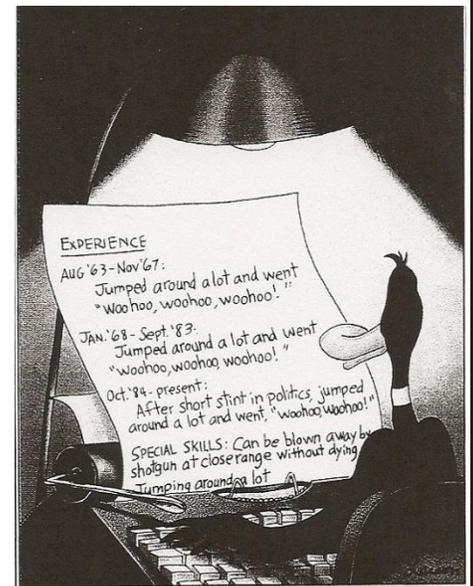
1. Develop our social media presence by regularly posting to facebook, Twitter, etc.;
2. Be TRR's link to The Real Warrior Campaign's Social Media Office;
3. Organize local veterans into "Team Warrior Camp" to develop more community support for our Warrior Camp program. **Please contact TRR's director immediately if you are interested in this position at (917) 509-5804 . You must also immediately contact TMC at (314) 588 8805 and register on line at TMC website.**

<http://missioncontinues.org/fellowships/about-the-fellowship>

SANTI EXPRESS: CDL driver Class B wanted for a very busy Rockland-based moving company. Immediate openings are available. Applicants must have a clean license and moving experience is preferred. They will train the right person. Contact Santi Express for an interview appointment. Their office phone number is 845.268.1600. When you come for the interview, please bring an abstract of your driving record with you. Santi Express, Inc. is located at Corporate Way, Suite 7, Valley Cottage, New York 10989. For further information or to schedule an interview appointment, call 845.268.1600. <http://www.santixpress.com>

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR VETERANS' REPRESENTATIVE – NATALIE HERNANDEZ

As we've often stated, Natalie Hernandez is our local Veterans Representative with the NYS Department of Labor. You can reach Natalie Hernandez at: NYS Department of Labor, Local Veterans Employment Representative, 1 Perlman Drive, Spring Valley, NY 10977. 845-356-5429. E-mail: Natalie.Hernandez@labor.ny.gov. Twitter at NatDOLVetRep.



Daffy's résumé

ABOUT ROCKVETS - A PROJECT OF NY VETS ©

We would like to keep you up-to-date on events and matters of interest to veterans and will be sending these newsletters regularly. If at any time you no longer wish to receive them, please send a note to info@rockvets.com. Your e-mail address will immediately be deleted from our newsletter mailing list. If you find any of this information useful, please pass it along to others.



We are here to help you and all who have worn the uniform of our nation.

VETERAN BUSINESS OWNERS

In upcoming editions of the RockVets newsletter, we would like to feature a veteran-owned business each month. If you'd like to have us highlight your company in the RockVets newsletter, please send an e-mail to info@rockvets.com and let us know about your business. If you have any job openings available, please let us know, or contact our Department of Labor Veterans' Representative Natalie Hernandez at 845.356.5429. E-mail: Natalie.Hernandez@labor.ny.gov.

ROCKVETS - ON THE INTERNET AND AIRWAVES

You can find information, useful links, and view our webpage at www.rockvets.com. Previous copies of our newsletters are also available on our website at: www.rockvets.com/newsletters. You can interact with us on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/rockvets or e-mail us at: info@rockvets.com.

On the first Friday of each month, just after the 10:00 a.m. news-break, RockVets has a live call-in talk show on Rockland County's local radio station – WRCR 1300 AM. We encourage you to call-in and ask any questions you may have relating to veterans or the military. This is also a good opportunity to promote any upcoming events for your organization that would be of interest to the veteran/military community. The call-in number is 845.362.0013. The show is also live on the internet at: www.wrcr.com. So please listen in, and call if you have questions or information to share. The next RockVets radio show will be this Friday, May 3rd, 2013 after the 10:00 a.m. newsbreak.

So that we can keep you up to date on as much information as possible, we have included links to certain articles so you may read further about those items. At the time the newsletter is sent to you, the links are all working well. If they don't work for you, just cut and paste the address into your browser and that should bring you to the correct article.

R.C. Veterans Service Agency – if you plan to come to the office, please call to make an appointment so we can give you the time you need - 845.638.5244. Jerry Donnellan, Director, Veterans Service Agency of Rockland, 20 Squadron Blvd., Suite 480, New City, NY 10956 - Phone: 845.638.5244 Fax: 845-638-5370 E-mail: jerry@rockvets.com

