



COUNTY OF ROCKLAND
VETERANS SERVICE
AGENCY NEWSLETTER

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www.rockvets.com

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69TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

JUNE 1943 – JUNE 2013



During World War II (1939-1945) - the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control.

Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces

landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France's Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning. Prior to D-Day, the Allies conducted a large-scale deception campaign designed to mislead the Germans about the intended invasion target. By late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and by the following spring the Allies had defeated the Germans. The Normandy landings have been called the beginning of the end of war in Europe.

<http://www.history.com/topics/d-day>

VIDEOS FROM HISTORY.COM DEPICTING THE EVENTS OF
D-DAY, THE INVASION OF NORMANDY, JUNE 6, 1944

Displaying incredible heroism, bravery and determination, the troops landed on the beaches and under extreme odds, were able to secure all five of the enemy beachheads. One historian explained, "It's buddies fighting side by side that wins the battle of the beaches." See the videos at this link:

<http://www.history.com/videos/d-day-invasion-of-normandy#d-day-invasion-of-normandy>

LIFE MAGAZINE PHOTOS

Still photos from **Life** magazine taken in England and France before and after D-Day, the Invasion of Normandy:

<http://life.time.com/history/before-and-after-d-day-color-photos-from-england-and-france-1944/?iid=lb-gal-viewagn#1>

JUNE 5, 1944 – 82ND
AIRBORNE, 50... PIR
AMERICAN TROOPS
PREPARING TO BOARD
FLIGHTS FOR D-DAY
INVASION OF NORMANDY



Background history of the 82nd and 17th Airborne with links to other units: http://www.ww2-airborne.us/division/82_overview.html and http://www.ww2-airborne.us/18corps/17abn/17_overview.html

"LAST-STOP U.S.A." – CAMP SHANKS, ORANGEBURG, NY

This year marks the 69th Anniversary of D-Day, the Invasion of Normandy. The public is invited to visit The Camp Shanks Museum in Orangeburg, NY, that was established in June of 1994, on the 50th Anniversary of D-Day. It is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day, and is staffed by volunteers from local veterans' organizations. For groups of 20 or more, call Jerry Donnellan at 845-638-5244. For further information on the Camp Shanks Museum, visit this link to the Rockvets June 2012 newsletter: www.rockvets.com/newsletters or <http://www.rockvets.com/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=139047>

NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL



The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial was established by the U.S. First Army, on June 8, 1944, two days after the beginning of the Normandy Invasion. Here lie the graves of 9,387 men, many of whom remain unidentified to this day. This is only one of the many cemeteries

overseas, where our troops have been buried. You can find further information on this and other American cemeteries overseas, and view a few short videos at this link: <http://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries/index.php>.

BATTLEFIELD MONUMENTS

American Battlefield Monuments Commission – video depicting the 25 monuments around the world, dedicated to American troops in some of our country's wars. <http://media.oaktreesys.com/abmc/video/monuments.wmv>

70TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE COMMISSIONED



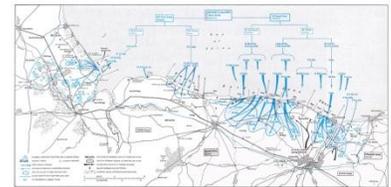
The D-Day 70 Years Committee has been commissioned to organize the D-Day Memorial Parade and Musical Salute to the Veterans to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Allied Landings in Normandy France and the Liberation of Europe. If you would like further information on the parade, visit this website: <http://www.d-day70years.org/families.php>

Seventy years later on June 6, 2014, Sainte-Mere-Eglise, the first village to be liberated by American paratroopers, will host this historic parade and concert series.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL HONOR A VETERAN OR SEARCH DATABASE

Visit the ABMC World War II Memorial website and World War II Registry. At this website you can honor those who served during World War II. You can also search the World War II registry: <http://www.abmc.gov/home.php>

MAPS AND INFORMATION



You can find images of the Normandy landings at this website:

<http://members.shaw.ca/junobeach/images/juno-3%20D-Day%20Overlord.jpg>

<http://www.ddayhistorian.com/maps.html>

http://www.usairborne.be/ww2-USAirborne/SITE/Cartes/normandy_map.jpg

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/de/D-day_allied_assault_routes.jpg

PHOTOS OF D-DAY LINK:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=landing+in+normandy+photos&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=TVGtUazPO7az4AO08oHQCA&ved=0COC0QsAQ&biw=1230&bih=634>

TEXT MESSAGE FROM THE VA IS A SCAM

Some veterans have received a text message supposedly from the VA, asking them to call a toll free number and confirm their bank account information. The veteran is then told that there is a problem processing their payment and asks the vet to provide their account information. For your information, the Veterans Administration does not text anyone, nor do they request banking information over the phone. If you know of anyone who has received a call such as this, please get in touch with us. And remember to never give out this kind of personal information over the phone.

FREE YOGA FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Starting June 18th, on Tuesdays from 5:45 – 7:00 p.m., Vince Quiros is offering free yoga classes for veterans and their families. The classes are also open to members of the yoga community who want to support veterans for a fee of \$12.00 per class. This fee will be donated to *Yoga Across America* – an organization that provides free yoga to veterans.

Vince has established a yoga program at Montrose VA Hospital where he works with residents in treatment for substance abuse and PTSD. For further information, contact Vince at 845-400-9579 or e-mail him at vince.quiros@infogroup.com. Birchwood Center - 85 South Broadway, Nyack, NY 10960 – website: www.birchwoodcenter.com.

FLAG DAY IS JUNE 14TH



Veterans from the Rockland County Marine Corps League repainted the flagpole and provided a new flag at the Lions Club triangle. In the photo are: Rocky Graziano, Dale Robinson, Dennis Roscia, Danny McKenna, Sam Papa, Jim O'Neill and Frank Viggiano hauling up the Flag.

SUMMER CAMP OFFER FROM KIWANIS CLUB

The Kiwanis Club is offering/sponsoring a week of free summer camp during the week of July 7th – July 13th. To be awarded to the child of a veteran. For further information, please contact Pat Caldwell at 845-356-0148.

AMERICA'S WARS - STATS

An updated version of "America's Wars" is now available. This fact sheet contains statistical information about troop strength, casualties, dates, etc. It is available at this link:

http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/factsheets/fs_americas_wars.pdf

GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR (OCT 2001 -)

The Global War on Terror (GWOT), including Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), are ongoing conflicts. For the most current GWOT statistics visit the following Department of Defense Website:

http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/gwot_component.pdf

CONKLIN, BERNARD

In June of 1988, 25 years ago, Bernie Conklin's remains were finally returned home, after 22 years. His remains were returned from North Vietnam on 3 March 1988, Identified 3 June 1988, and brought home to Stony Point, NY on June 9th.



Bernie was a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force. He was the only MIA from Rockland County, and was missing since July 29, 1966. His name is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. – Panel 09E Line 088. You can find the Virtual Wall Memorial Page for Bernie Conklin and others through this link:

<http://www.virtualwall.org/dc/ConklinBx01a.htm>.

A LITTLE BIT OF ME – A BOOK OF POETRY – JACK WILLIAMS

SMILE

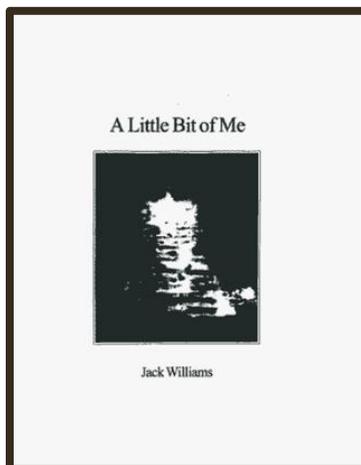
*Smile early in the morning,
Good cheer will fill your day.
Smile and send forth happiness,
You'll brighten up another's way.*

*A smile is like a ray of sun,
It warms the heart and soul.
It chases clouds away at once,
Its wonders can't be bought I'm told.*

*A smile can change one's feelings,
Lessen burdens caused by strife.
A smile can cast a spell serene,
Softens hardships borne in life.*

*The message that you radiate,
Lightens minds, dispels concern.
The best of all you'll surely see,
Are the smiles that are returned.*

*Those who smiles are sent to,
Are hard-pressed to stay grim.
Heaven's gestures here on earth,
Banish misery, friendships win.*



DEFENSE PRISONER OF WAR-MISSING PERSONNEL OFFICE INFORMATION

For updated information on those missing from this country's wars, visit this link: [Missing Personnel](#)

DEFENSE PRISONER OF WAR/MISSING PERSONNEL OFFICE

U.S. Accounted-For from the Vietnam War... Prisoners of War, Escapees, Returnees and Remains Recovered. Visit this site: [U.S. Accounted-For from Vietnam War](#)

ROLLING THUNDER STILL ASKING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THOSE PRISONERS OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION

[Rolling Thunder Still Asking Accountability for those Prisoners of War/Missing in Action](#)
by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

This year is the organization's 26th anniversary demonstration in support of POW/MIA and veterans' issues. • [Continue Reading →](#)

GULF WAR TASK FORCE REPORT RELEASED

[Draft Gulf War Task Force Report Released](#) Posted on May 16, 2013
by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

On May 16th, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced that the Department's Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force will publish a comprehensive draft report in the Federal Register for public feedback and comment. The report describes how the Department of Veterans Affairs has been, and will continue to address the concerns of Veterans who deployed [...] • [Continue Reading →](#)

HOMELESS VETS

HUD and the VA team up to provide permanent homes to 9,000 homeless veterans... read more -

<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2449>

9/11 BILL - EDUCATION

For information about your educational benefits through the 9/11 G.I. Bill , check out this link:

<http://www.military.com/education/gi-bill/gi-bill-tuition-rates-for-the-2013-14.html?ESRC=education.nl>

VETERAN DISABILITY BENEFITS

Veterans can learn more about disability benefits on the joint Department of Defense—VA web portal eBenefits at <http://www.ebenefits.va.gov>.

More information about filing Fully Developed Claims is available at: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/transformation/fastclaims/>.

REAL WARRIORS CAMPAIGN – INFORMATION FOR ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL AND MILITARY VETERANS

Real Warriors newsletter with many links to helpful information for veterans.

To view their informative newsletter, click on this link:

<http://realwarriorscampaign.cmail5.com/t/ViewEmail/r/54228993B01A5A8C2540EF23F30FEDED/C711D197CFEEC56822947492D9797BBC>

MAY 30TH - KEEPING THE
WATCHFIRES BURNING
FOR THOSE WE'VE LOST
AND THOSE WHO HAVE
YET TO RETURN...



Piermont Pier Watchfire May 30th

PTSD AND RELATIONSHIPS

[PTSD and Relationships](#) May 2013
- [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

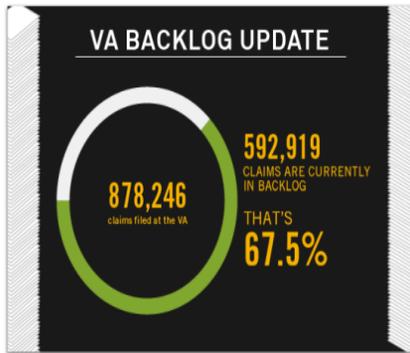
Trauma and PTSD can lead to problems that affect interactions with others, including close family. Those suffering with PTSD have a hard time feeling emotions. They may feel detached from others. In turn, the way a loved one responds to him or her affects the trauma survivor. A circular pattern can develop that may harm [...]

[Continue Reading →](#)

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS (IAVA)

Solutions to End the VA Disability Claims Backlog - click here:

<http://iava.org/blog/solutions-end-va-disability-claims-backlog>



As of [May 11, 2013](#), 878,246 veterans are waiting for their VA disability benefits. 592,919 are officially backlogged - meaning they are waiting over 125 days. According to a recent report the average wait time in larger cities can be over 600 days. Read more:

<http://cironline.org/reports/va%E2%80%99s-ability-quickly-provide->

[benefits-plummets-under-obama-4241](#)

In Reno, the wait is 681 days. New York is 642 days. New Orleans is 490 days. Houston is 586 days. The list goes on. The IAVA is calling upon their members, supporters, friends and the American public to make Washington #EndTheVABacklog. Click here to see [solutions](#) offered by IAVA and join nearly 50,000 others and [sign the petition now!](#)

LATEST INITIATIVE AIMED AT REDUCING THE BACKLOG

[VA Mandates Overtime to Increase Production of Compensation Claims Decisions](#) -

WASHINGTON – As part of its ongoing effort to accelerate the elimination of the disability compensation claims backlog, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is announcing today that it is mandating overtime for claims processors in its 56 regional benefits offices. This surge, which will be implemented through the end of fiscal year 2013, will be targeted to eliminating the backlogged status of claims. The additional overtime hours that will be worked during this period will be used to help eliminate the backlog with continued emphasis on high-priority claims for homeless Veterans and those claiming financial hardship, the terminally ill, former Prisoners of War, Medal of Honor recipients, and Veterans filing Fully Developed Claims. <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/>

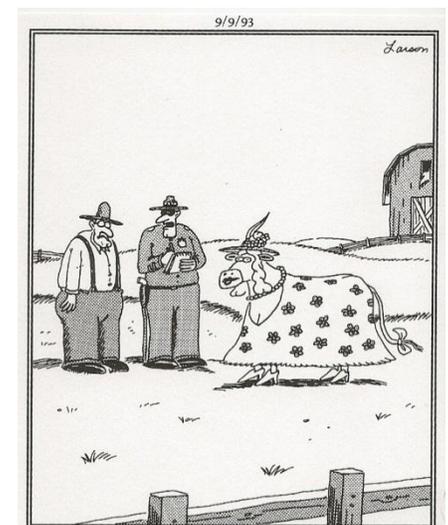
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More information about filing Fully Developed Claims is available at:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/transformation/fastclaims/>.



“You were hit last night by some kind of cult, Mr. Gilbert. ... Not the sickest cult I’ve ever seen, but a cult nonetheless.”

TWO OF OUR VIETNAM VETERANS NAMED TO NEW YORK STATE VETERANS HALL OF FAME



Charles "Charlie" Maushardt is a life-long resident of Rockland County. Upon graduation from Tappan Zee High School in 1969, he joined the U.S. Army. After basic training, Charlie served in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971. For his service, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and one Overseas Bar with Star.

Charlie has since been a member of several local veterans' organizations including the Vietnam Veterans of America, serving as President from 1992-1994; the Raymond DeMeola VFW Post #1615 in Blauvelt; the John Perry American Legion Post #1044 in Sparkill and the Nam Knights Motorcycle Club in 1991. It was for his service to these organizations that Charlie was honored by the Rockland County Veterans Coordinating Council as the 1995-1996 Rockland County Veteran of the Year. As President of the Hudson Valley Chapter of the Nam Knights MC since 2000, an organization consisting of military veterans, law enforcement officers and Patriots, Charlie has become well-known for his leadership and service to the residents of Rockland County and the surrounding region. Charlie lives in Blauvelt, New York, and has been married to his wife Marianne for 41 years. They have 3 grown sons and 6 grandchildren.



[Senator David Carlucci Invites Veteran's Hall of Fame 2013 Honoree Charlie Maushardt to Albany](#)

ALBANY, NY – Senator David Carlucci (D-Rockland/Westchester) invited Charles "Charlie" Maushardt, a life-long resident of Rockland County, up to Albany to induct him as the newest member of the New York State Senate Veteran's Hall of Fame. This prestigious designation is designed to pay tribute to New Yorkers whose gallantry in the U.S. Armed Forces is complemented by their service to the community. May 29, 2013 [Read more...](#)

Representing the 42nd Senate District, Richie Keiser was also inducted in the New York State Hall of Fame. Senator Bonacic commented, "Mr. Keiser's heroism during the Vietnam War is complemented by his outstanding service to the community."

Richard R. Keiser served his country admirably during the Vietnam War, achieving the rank of Sergeant. He is a disabled decorated combat veteran of Vietnam, US Army 101st Airborne Division. He was wounded on Hamburger Hill in May 1969. He is a member of numerous veterans' organizations including: the Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, Veterans of Foreign Wars (Charter member of Post 1615, DeMeola Post and served as Commander).



Mr. Keiser has proven to be a leader in the military and in civilian life. Mr. Keiser remains current on veterans' issues and continues to stay actively involved in numerous veteran organizations. He has taken on several leadership roles relating to veterans issues. As a New York State Commander of the American Legion, he helped work with members.

To read the full article from "The Catskill Chronicle" of May 4th, 2013, click this link:

<http://thecatskillchronicle.com/2013/05/04/bonacic-selects-sullivan-county-resident-richard-r-keiser-to-nys-veterans-hall-of-fame/>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

UNITED HOSPICE OF ROCKLAND SEEKING ON-CALL NURSE

A per diem RN or NP position is available for On Call after hours (4:30 PM to 8:30AM) at United Hospice of Rockland. Candidates with recent bedside nursing experience, with good clinical skills, some experience caring for terminally ill patients and a basic understanding and commitment to the hospice concept, experience in home care, hospice and/or oncology preferred. [Job Description](#). Resumes may be sent to kdamiani@hospiceofrockland.org

NYACK SCHOOL DISTRICT – SECURITY AIDES

Nyack School District has two openings available for Security Aides for the school district. If you are interested, contact Nyack Administration at 845-353-7000.

WALMART OFFERING JOBS TO VETERANS

Starting Memorial Day, 2013, Walmart will offer a job to any honorably discharged veteran meeting their standard hiring criteria. The veteran must have been discharged within the past 12 months. More information is available on their website: <http://walmartcareerswithamission.com/>.

VETERANS VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR

If you are a recently discharged veteran looking for a job, there is a Veterans Virtual Career Fair being conducted by Monster.com in conjunction with Military.com. Visit this link: <http://www.veteransvirtualcareerfair.com/web/>

There is no cost. You just sign up and surf the virtual booths.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR VETERANS' REPRESENTATIVE – NATALIE HERNANDEZ

Natalie Hernandez is our local Veterans Representative with the NYS Department of Labor. You can reach Natalie 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.

[Briefing On Protecting The Civil Rights Of Our Veterans And Service Members](#) Posted on May 28, 2013 - [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

The United States Commission on Civil Rights has held a briefing to examine whether the Federal Government is adequately protecting the civil rights of our veterans and service members who have fought for our country. The briefing was scheduled for Friday, May 31, 2013 from 9:30 AM ET to 3:00 PM
[...] • [Continue Reading](#) →



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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.

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 next Friday, June 7th, 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 many 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 the links do not work for you, just cut and paste the address into your browser and that should bring you to the correct article, or you can do a search for the article on the web. Providing the information in this newsletter does not necessarily constitute our endorsement or opinion.

If you have information, that can benefit the military and veteran community, or would like the community to know about an event your group is hosting, please send it to us so we can publish it in the next newsletter:

info@rockvets.com.

**VETERANS SERVICE
AGENCY OF ROCKLAND**

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.

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**WE ARE HERE TO HELP
YOU AND ALL WHO HAVE
WORN THE UNIFORM OF
OUR NATION. THANK YOU.**