



COUNTY OF ROCKLAND
VETERANS SERVICE
AGENCY NEWSLETTER

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FOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR IT, FREEDOM HAS A
FLAVOR THE PROTECTED WILL NEVER KNOW.

ROCKLAND DESIGNATED
AS PURPLE HEART
COUNTY

JUL 4, 1776: AMERICAN COLONIES DECLARE INDEPENDENCE

On this day in 1776, in Philadelphia, [Pennsylvania](#), the [Continental Congress](#) adopts the [Declaration of Independence](#), which proclaims the independence of a new [United States](#) of America from Great Britain and its king. The declaration came 442 days after the first shots of the [American Revolution](#) were fired at Lexington and Concord in [Massachusetts](#) and marked an ideological expansion of the conflict that would eventually involve France's intervention on behalf of the Americans.

The first major American opposition to British policy came in 1765 after Parliament passed the [Stamp Act](#), a taxation measure designed to raise revenues for a standing British army in America. Under the banner of "no taxation without representation," colonists convened the Stamp Act Congress in October 1765 to vocalize their opposition to the tax. With its enactment in November, most colonists called for a boycott of British goods, and some organized attacks on customhouses and homes of tax collectors

To read more: <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/american-colonies-declare-independence>

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

To many in the Continental Congress, war was unthinkable. So why did they finally create this revolutionary document? Click here to view this 3-minute video clip: <http://www.history.com/videos/jefferson-writes-the-declaration-of-independence#declaration-of-independence>

➤ [Watch Similar Videos](#)



The Rockland County Legislature has approved the resolution by Legislator Ed Day, proclaiming Rockland as a Purple Heart County. On Thursday, July 4th, 2013 at 12:30 p.m., members of the Rockland Chapter - Military Order of the Purple Heart, Charles G. Muller – Chapter 120, will gather on the steps of the Rockland County Courthouse to preside over this occasion. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the ceremony that will mark this significant designation.

For further information, contact Howard Goldin, Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart via e-mail:

goldingoose@optonline.net

To read more, click on this link: [Purple Heart County](#)

[Purple Heart History](#)

INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS – POST TRAUMATIC STRESS

No one ever returns from war. We are all casualties, as are the victims of terrorism. Not just those who are killed or maimed, but those who are there. They saw war in a very small place. Some say that with time they will get over it. Not true. It fades. Goes out of focus. Takes up less space in your consciousness, but spiritually you have been captured. Your soul remains a prisoner. Then days, years, even decades later, one of your senses will be a trigger. A smell, a sound – and instantly you'll be back there in full color. But only you can see it and as quickly as it came, it's gone. As fast as gunfire – and nothing's faster than gunfire. It's past you before you hear it. They're not flashbacks. It's not some Rambo-rampage. It's more subtle, more fleeting. Often triggered by something mundane – harmless and innocent. They're just sights, sounds, and smells that happen to be around you when your world went crazy. They're like daydreams. The professionals call them, 'intrusive thoughts'. I'm not a psychiatrist or a doctor. Hell, I'm not even a good patient. But I've been around this block a couple of times. We all have had these experiences. For the normal people, whoever they are, usually intrusive thoughts are things that come back from childhood. When you were a kid you had more time to dwell on things. Also, you had less on your mind so things made more of an impression. Colors were brighter. Smells were more pungent. Sounds were sharper. Tastes were stronger. So today you may smell a turkey cooking and for a brief moment it will take you back to your grandmother's house during the holidays. The sound of wind chimes might bring you back to your uncle's back porch. Get the picture? We all have had them.

However, for the combat veteran they're far less pleasant and in a funny way, far more nuanced. For me there were no more beautiful sunsets after Vietnam. It took me years to figure this one out. I could be sitting completely comfortable on a pleasant deck after a day's work with a beer, watching the sun go down. Tranquil, right? I would become uneasy, uncomfortable, hyper-alert, hyper-vigilant, and there was nothing that I understood that should have caused that. There were no bad thoughts and I wasn't concerned about anything in particular. I thought I must have been going crazy. But I wasn't. However, there are those that would argue that point. I was having a perfectly normal reaction to an abnormal set of circumstances. In Vietnam, the setting sun was a warning of night. Night belonged to Charlie and my platoon would soon be moving into an ambush position. That smoky, hazy, jungle twilight was soon

followed by the inky Asian night, and you would lie silent praying for morning, or a quick death. It'd been decades since the dust-off helicopter lifted me out of my war. I thought at least for me the war was over. It was over for me like it was over for others. For anyone who's been to war, it was over, and over, and over. Even today, if I hear the sound of a Huey helicopter, I have to stop and look up. The difference is, at least today I know why I'm doing it. Trauma is trauma – whether in Boston or Baghdad, and if you were there your mind becomes a dry sponge, which is thrown into a raging river of sound and fury absorbing all of it – even the seemingly peaceful things. And they will come back and remind you when you least expect it.

Jerry Donnellan

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PURPLE HEART LICENSE PLATES

NYS Senator Terry Gipson has proposed Legislation that there be no more fees associated with Purple Heart License Plates. The NYS Senate has approved this Legislation. To read further, view this link:

[NYS Senate legislation - no more fees for Purple Heart License Plates](#)

NEW GROUP FORMING AT MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

MHA Rockland is starting a support/discussion group for friends and family of those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

For further information, contact Sonia Wagner, Executive Vice President Mental Health Association of Rockland County, Inc.

Phone: 845-267-2172, x323, via e-mail: wagners@mharockland.org. To view their website: <http://www.mharockland.org/>

ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY AND CAMP SHANKS



On Wednesday, August 14, 2013 – at 6:30 p.m., there will be a ceremony held at the end of the Piermont Pier. At this event, a plaque will be unveiled, commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the creation of Camp Shanks, and the 68th Anniversary of V-E Day, the end of the War in Europe. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. For further information, contact Jerry Donnellan at 845-638-5244 or e-mail: jerry@rockvets.com.

SHRINER'S CLUB CIRCUS

Once again, the Shriner's club will be having their circus at the German Masonic Grounds in Tappan on September 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd. As with last year, they would like to offer the 1st show on the 19th of September (at 12:00 noon,) to the vets and our seniors free of charge. Last year's show was great and everybody enjoyed it. This year is expected to be even bigger and better. For further information, contact Ralph Edwards at 845-356-6184 or e-mail: ralph@klownklub.org

COST OF GOING AWAY PARTY

When Afghanistan is over, we will have to bring back 100,000 vehicles 30,000 Shipping containers, at a cost of \$6 billion dollars.

MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to help deliver meals to the homebound in Rockland. If you have a car and can volunteer for about an hour, you can help frail and elderly seniors in our community. Volunteers deliver when it is convenient to their calendar. Meals are delivered between 11-1 weekdays. Please call Sharon Martini at 845-624-6325. To find programs that can be of benefit to you or your family members, visit this website at: <http://www.mowrockland.org/index.html>

DOMA – THE SUPREME COURT DECISION

The Supreme Court decision has wide impact for some veterans. If you are a veteran and the new ruling applies to you, your spouse or a dependent, we suggest you apply for your benefits now rather than wait until the VA has set up policy on this. If you feel you have a claim, get it filed now. Jerry 845-638-5244 or e-mail: jerry@rockvets.com.

VA STARTS CAMPAIGN TO RAISE PTSD AWARENESS

June 24, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

VA Starts Campaign to Raise PTSD Awareness WASHINGTON (June 24, 2013)– In observance of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) awareness month, the Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for PTSD invites the public to participate in its “Take the Step” campaign. “Every day of the year, we should focus on assisting those who have served our [...] • [Continue Reading →](#)

AMERICA'S WORST CHARITIES

From the: [Tampa Bay Times Center for Investigative reporting](#)

[Worst Charities video clip](#)

List of America’s 50 Worst Charities:

<http://www.tampabay.com/americas-worst-charities/>

List of soliciting companies hired by the 50 worst charities

<http://www.tampabay.com/americas-worst-charities/solicitors/list>

FREEDOM DAY USA

Freedom Day USA is the first 'National Day of Thank You' for active military, their families and veterans to say "Thank You" for keeping us free. It will be held on September 12, 2013 and every second Thursday of September from now on. Businesses across the United States are participating. For more information on how to be a part of this event, go to this link: www.freedomdayusa.org. For further information, contact Cherie Berk, New York State Chairperson/Freedom Day USA at 845-558-8686.

HONOR GUARD – DELTA AIRLINES

Delta Airlines Honor Guard welcomes home one of our troops:

Youtube video link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=c_VGxfmDmEo

REAL WARRIORS

Whether you are recently returning from combat or have been out of the service for a number of years, you are always a part of the military family. You may have concerns about navigating the health care system, understanding your benefits and accessing the care you need. Real Warriors provides resources to help you with administrative discharge, reevaluation, combat stress signs and symptoms and up-to-date treatment options. Visit this link for further information: <http://www.realwarriors.net/veterans>

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

The provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court will not affect the current role the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has in the lives of America's Veterans. For more information about VA's health care services, visit these links: <http://www.va.gov/health/>

<http://www.va.gov/health/aca/>

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html>

NEW BRAIN INJURY CENTER TO TREAT TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AND POST TRAUMATIC STRESS

Posted on June 13, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)



Military leaders, including Gen. Robert Cone, Commanding General for the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, and Brig. Gen. Mark Stammer, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell Senior Mission Commander, joined leaders of the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund (IFHF) at a groundbreaking ceremony here marking the start of construction for the

[...] • [Continue reading](#)

WORLD WAR II PILOT AND HIS 1944 SPITFIRE

World War II pilot gets shown footage of his 1944 Spitfire crash that he's never seen until now. Watch video at this link:

<http://www.wimp.com/warfootage/>

This documentary was put together by family members of the flight surgeon who took the films.

NJ GOLD STAR MOMS

[Gold Star Moms - New Jersey](#) web link. Judy Tapper, President

HONOR AND REMEMBER

<http://www.honorandremember.org/> New State Flag for Gold Star Families

NEW JERSEY RUN FOR THE FALLEN

<http://www.njrunforthefallen.org/> Run for the Fallen

For further information, contact Terry Fearon, V- Commander, Brick VFW 8867 via e-mail at: tjfearon@aol.com or call Terry at 201-602-1637. Terry Fearon Vice-Commander Brick VFW 8867 PO-2, USN-MCB-6 VIETNAM 67-68

WELCOME HOME TROOPS WITH NEW SUITS

Through its "Uniform of Success" event, Jos. A. Bank Clothiers, Inc. has joined with the Gary Sinise Foundation to give suits to thousands of military veterans as they re-enter the civilian workforce. Anyone who purchases a men's suit from July 1-7 gets an additional two free suits. Jos. A. Bank will then donate a suit [...]

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VA PROCESSES NEARLY ALL DISABILITY CLAIMS PENDING OVER 2 YEARS, MOVES TO COMPLETE THOSE OLDER THAN 1 YEAR

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced on June 20, 2013 that as a result of the initiative launched in April to expedite disability compensation claims decisions for Veterans who have waited a year or longer, more than 65,000-claims – or 97 percent of all claims over two years old in the inventory – have been eliminated [...]

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CHRYSLER IN NANUET

The Chrysler dealer in Nanuet, NY is looking to hire veterans who have some mechanical knowledge. For further information, call Chrysler in Nanuet at 845 627 3700, extension 310.

HUNT'S POINT MEAT MARKET

There are immediate openings available at the Hunt's Point Meat Market in the Bronx, NY. The company is interested in hiring veterans. Here are some of the available positions.

Butcher (Bronx, NY)

Plant Manager-Trainee (Bronx, NY)

Management Trainee (Bronx, NY)

Shipping Manager (Bronx, NY)

If interested, contact Dan Salmon via e-mail:

Dsalmon@rosenlamb.com

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AT WEST POINT

Morgan Construction has openings for a project at the Keller Army Communication Hospital at West Point. This is a Veterans Training Program which hires OIF/OEF veterans (or current reservists) with no experience in order to help train them for employment in the construction business. As part of their contracts, sub-contractors are required to participate in this program as well. For further information, contact Kevin Malke, Assistant Site Superintendent, Morgan-Luster Construction, United States Military Academy at West Point via e-mail: KMalke@morgancontracting.onmicrosoft.com.

DRIVER AND HELPER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

A commercial moving company based in Pearl River, has employment for qualified applicants. There are driver and helper positions available. They are reaching out to veterans who are in need of work. For further information, contact Don Bernhardt at 845-620-6864 or via e-mail: bernhardmoving@aol.com

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.



WWW.ROCKVETS.COM

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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. **There will not be a RockVets radio show on the first Friday in July.**

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 VSA 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
FOR YOUR SERVICE.**