



COUNTY OF ROCKLAND  
VETERANS SERVICE  
AGENCY NEWSLETTER

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COMMEMORATION CEREMONY: 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
CAMP SHANKS AND 68<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF V-E AND V-J DAY



On Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 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, noting the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of Camp Shanks in Orangeburg, NY as a staging area for 1.3 million GIs heading overseas to the European Theatre and North Africa. For many of these troops, Camp Shanks would be the last time they set foot on American soil. It was known as “Last Stop – USA.”

This map shows Camp Shanks from 1943 overlaying on a current map for the Town of Orangetown, Rockland County, New York. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the event. Read more about Camp Shanks from our [June 2012](#) newsletter at this link: [www.rockvets.com/newsletters](http://www.rockvets.com/newsletters).

NEW MONUMENT MARKS 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CAMP  
SHANKS, WWII BASE LOCATED IN ROCKLAND COUNTY

Posted on July 4, 2013 Rockland County Times

By Bill Demarest

When Jerry Donnellan visits the Piermont Pier – jutting about a mile into the Hudson River from Rockland County – there is a special significance for him to the panoramic views that seem to stretch endlessly.

“This is one of the last views of home that thousands of G.I.s had as they went off to fight World War II,” said Donnellan, a Vietnam War veteran who is director of Rockland County’s Veterans Services Agency. “A lot of those G.I.s never came back.”

Donnellan is also curator of the Camp Shanks [Museum](#) in Orangeburg, which is dedicated to preserving the memory of the sprawling World War II U.S. Army base that prepared 1.3 million troops for war – including 75 percent of American forces taking part in the D-Day landings at Normandy. Many of those troops shipped out to Europe on boats that docked at the end of the Piermont Pier.

To read the rest of the story, click on this link:

<http://www.rocklandtimes.com/2013/07/04/new-monument-marks-70th-anniversary-of-wwii-base-1-3m-g-i-s-sent-off-to-war-from-sprawling-camp-shanks-in-orangetown/>

## CAMP SHANKS 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND THE 68<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II

This dedication will also commemorate the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of V-J Day on August 14, 1945 and the May 8<sup>th</sup> end of the war in Europe.



The ceremony is open to everyone, so please join us. For further information contact Jerry at 845.638.5244 or e-mail: [jerry@rockvets.com](mailto:jerry@rockvets.com).

For facts and video about the famous kiss in Times Square, visit this link: <http://www.history.com/topics/v-j-day/videos#celebrating-the-vj-day-kiss-in-times-square>

## REMEMBERING V-E DAY

On May 8, 1945, millions of people around the globe took to the streets to celebrate the World War II surrender of Germany on what came to be known as Victory in Europe Day, or V-E Day. At 2:41 a.m. local time the previous day, representatives from the victorious Allied nations met with German officials in Reims, France, to sign the official surrender documents but, in accordance with an earlier agreement between leaders in the United States, Soviet Union and United Kingdom, the news of the end of hostilities on the continent was withheld for 24 hours and announced simultaneously on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. Read more: <http://www.history.com/news/remembering-v-e-day> -

## VETERAN MEDICS EMPLOYED IN VA EMERGENCY ROOMS UNDER NEW PILOT PROGRAM

August 2, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

VA's Intermediate Care Technician (ICT) Program is a pilot program that employs Veterans trained as medics to work in VA emergency rooms.

View video and Continue Reading →

<http://www.veteransresources.org/2013/08/veteran-medics-employed-in-va-emergency-rooms-under-new-pilot-program/#.UfxPclOJ17A>

## VIETNAM VETS - BLUE-WATER VETERANS: MORE SHIPS ADDED TO VA'S VIETNAM SHIP LIST

The VA has updated the list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships that operated in Vietnam, adding more ships and expanding information for others. There are now 285 ships on the list. The list can help Vietnam-era Veterans find out if they qualify for presumption of Agent Orange exposure when seeking disability compensation for [...] Continue Reading:

<http://www.veteransresources.org/2013/07/more-ships-added-to-vas-vietnam-ship-list/#.UfxkUZK1Frq>

**For further information on Agent Orange Presumed Illnesses:**

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/diseases.asp#veterans>

## OPEN-AIR BURN PITS ARE STILL BEING USED AT BASES IN AFGHANISTAN

In a July 11, 2013 USA Today article by Kelley Kennedy, a report issued by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction shows that open-air burn pits are still being used at bases in Afghanistan where toxic materials are burned. **Read more:** <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/07/11/burn-pits-still-used-at-afghanistan-bases/2506375/>

## VA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR PLANNED BURN PIT REGISTRY

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

OEF/OIF/OND and 1990–91 Gulf War Veterans: Submit your comments through August 20, 2013 about the [proposed questionnaire](#) (PDF) for the planned Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

Please don't complete the proposed questionnaire instead provide your comments about it. [Learn more](#). Visit this link: [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures) to learn about military exposures and VA benefits. <http://www.veteransresources.org/2013/07/va-extends-comment-period-for-planned-burn-pit-registry/>

## LARIAM LINKED TO AFGHAN MASSACRE

In a July 13, 2013 *Army Times* article by Patricia Kime, new evidence introduced at the trial of the U.S. soldier who attacked an Afghan village of mud-walled compounds in March 2012 and allegedly killed 16 Afghan villagers, suggests he was prescribed an anti-malaria drug known to cause hallucinations, aggression, and psychotic behavior in some. The anti-malarial drug Lariam, also manufactured under the generic name mefloquine, has been associated with symptoms ranging from homicidal and suicidal ideation and psychosis to vomiting, nausea, and dizziness. From 1996 to 2012, the FDA received 438 reports of adverse symptoms from 37 patients who took mefloquine or Lariam, according to a review of records conducted by *Military Times*. For complete story go to this link: <http://www.armytimes.com/article/20130713/NEWS06/307130005/Anti-malarial-drug-linked-Afghan-massacre>

## POW BRACELETS RETURN TO GENERATE AWARENESS FOR CAPTIVE SGT. BOWE BERGDAHL

June 27, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

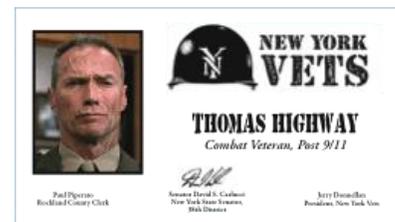


In the early 70's, Voices In Vital America (VIVA) distributed Bracelets to generate awareness for the Prisoners of War (POW) held captive during the Vietnam War. Today, Memorial Bracelets is once again using a POW Bracelet to generate awareness, but this time for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl who is being held prisoner in Afghanistan. Sergeant Bowe [...] Continue Reading →

<http://www.veteransresources.org/2013/06/pow-bracelets-return-to-generate-awareness-for-captive-sgt-bowe-bergdahl/#.UfvoalOJ17A>

## NY VETS ID CARD

We are developing a New York Vets ID card that we believe can be of use in identifying our Post 9/11 combat veterans. We thought it would be a way of recognizing their service, as well as letting them know that people care and appreciate their efforts on our behalf. Here is a sample of the card:



## POST-9/11 GI BILL MARKS 4TH ANNIVERSARY

July 29, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

August 1, marked the fourth anniversary of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. VA has issued approximately \$30 billion in Post 9/11 GI-Bill benefit payments since its inception in August 2009 and helped nearly 1 million Service-members, Veterans, and their families pursue their education. The Post-9/11 GI Bill is the most extensive educational assistance program since the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, more commonly known as the GI Bill, was signed into law. Read further: <http://www.veteransresources.org/2013/07/post-911-gi-bill-marks-4th-anniversary/#.UfvoalOJ17A>

## NEW PROGRAM SUPPORTS OUR HEROES WITH HEARING LOSS

July 19, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#) - The Heroes With Hearing Loss program, sponsored by Hamilton CapTel®, introduces veterans with hearing loss to resources and solutions that best meet their individual and unique needs. According to DOD statistics, hearing loss is the number one war-related injury affecting veterans from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. To see video and continue reading article: <http://www.veteransresources.org/2013/07/new-program-supports-our-heroes-with-hearing-loss/#.UfwlvFOJl7A>

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS VETERANS CALLING FOR CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI ATTACK

A group called *Special Operations Veterans*, the mission of which is to uncover the truths about the Benghazi, [Libya](#), terror attack that left four Americans dead, took its demands to Capitol Hill on Tuesday [July 23] via a petition that spans 60 feet in length. The veterans unfurled it near the steps of the Capitol. On it was written the demand: “End the cover-up” of the Benghazi attack, WND reported. The petition, signed by more than 1,000 people, also called for a special congressional committee to investigate the Sept. 11, 2012, incident. The petition is just the start of the group’s nationwide campaign to shed light on the events in Benghazi that led to the killing of U.S. Ambassador [J. Christopher Stevens](#).

Specifically, *Special Operations Veterans* is asking for more House members to sign on to H.R. 36, a bill that would establish the congressional Select Committee on Benghazi, WND reported. The measure is sponsored by Rep. Frank R. Wolf, Virginia Republican, and co-sponsored by 120 other members of Congress. R <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jul/24/60-foot-petition-demanding-benghazi-answers-unfurl/#ixzz2a49cbEja>

## VA’S ADAPTIVE HOUSING GRANTS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

July 18, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

VA provides grants to Service-members and Veterans with certain permanent and total service-connected disabilities to help purchase or construct an adapted home, or modify an existing home to accommodate a disability. Two grant programs exist: the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant and the Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant. Learn more at this link: <http://www.veteransresources.org/2013/07/vas-adaptive-housing-grants-for-disabled-veterans/#.UfxT81OJl7A>

## “PROLONGED EXPOSURE” THERAPY MAY HELP VETS WITH POST TRAUMATIC STRESS

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Therapy that involves repeatedly processing painful memories and approaching anxiety-provoking situations in a safe way may ease symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among veterans, a new study suggests. To read the full story: [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_138814.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_138814.html)

## SLEEP APNEA TREATMENT EASES NIGHTMARES IN VETS WITH PTSD: STUDY

July 17 (HealthDay News) -- For military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and sleep apnea, treatment with continuous positive airway pressure, or CPAP, reduces their nightmares, a new study finds. To read full story: [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_138792.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_138792.html)



### MOBILE EDUCATION ON PTSD

July 25, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

We live in an on-the-go convenience-driven society. To suit the busy lifestyles of today, PTSD information is available in audio podcasts and mobile apps. Self-help and coping information is also available online. PTSD Audio Podcasts Listen to learn about PTSD and treatment that can help. Podcasts of Understanding PTSD\* and Understanding PTSD treatment\* are now [...]

- Continue Reading → <http://www.veteransresources.org/2013/07/mobile-education-on-ptsd/#.Ufwup1OJl7A>

### PRESIDENT OBAMA PAYS TRIBUTE TO KOREAN WAR VETS

On the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the War in Korea, President Obama pays tribute to Korean War Veterans. To view his comments, see this link:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/07/27/president-obama-pays-tribute-korean-war-veterans-your-shining-deeds-live>

### WAR HORSE WHO SERVED IN THE KOREAN WAR

Some 60 years after carrying wounded soldiers and ammunition during heavy firefights, a decorated war horse praised as America's greatest equine soldier during the Korean War is finally being immortalized. Staff Sgt. Reckless, a Mongolian mare that served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War, made 51 solo trips during a five-day battle in March 1953, carrying nearly 10,000 pounds of ammunition and explosives from a supply depot to the front lines. Read more at this link:

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/07/24/statue-korean-war-horse-reckless-to-be-unveiled-at-marine-museum-in-virginia/?test=latestnews#ixzz2a46NzAAM>

### CVS/PHARMACY LAUNCHES NEW IN-STORE DISCOUNTS FOR VETERANS

Posted on July 10, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Discounts](#)

CVS/pharmacy® and Veterans Advantage Inc. today announced a new in-store savings program for Veterans Advantage's VetRewards Card members, honoring military and veteran families with savings on thousands of CVS/pharmacy Brand products at its 7,400 stores nationwide. U.S. Active Duty Military, Veterans, National Guard & Reserve and their families using the VetRewards Card can save \$2 ...read more -

<http://www.veteransresources.org/2013/07/cvspharmacy-launches-new-in-store-discounts-for-veterans/#.UfxVBIOJl7A>

### VA AMONG "MOST WIRED" HOSPITALS

July 22, 2013 by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

The Department of Veterans Affairs, representing 152 VA medical centers, was recently named to the 2013 "Most Wired" hospitals list. The list, which is released by Hospitals & Health Networks, in partnership with McKesson, the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) and the American Hospital Association (AHA), is the result of a national survey [...]

- [Continue Reading →](#)

### USMC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATE

The Rockland County MCLA Unit, is proud to announce the graduation of member Alyson Benoit from the United States Marine Corps Leadership Academy at Quantico, Virginia. She went through combat training, traditional courses and worked with a cemetery committee - excelling in all. She is a graduate of Albertus Magnus High School and will enter her freshman year in college in the fall. Alyson is the daughter of RCMCLA Unit Chaplain Laura Benoit, granddaughter of RCMCLAU President Nancy Bergerman. For further information, contact Nancy via e-mail at: [nancy8130@aol.com](mailto:nancy8130@aol.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS – AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

**August 4, 2013:** The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor will commemorate the 231<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the creation of the Badge of Military Merit, the inspiration for today's Purple Heart. The program will begin at 2:00 p.m. with a Purple Heart award ceremony for a veteran from the Iraq conflict. Everyone is invited to the event.

**August 9, 2013:** Veterans Appreciation Night, Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Provident Bank Park – Boulder Stadium. Please arrive by 6:00 - 6:30 for the pre-game tribute to military veterans, including POW/MIAs and Gold Star Parents. The event is hosted by the Nam Knights MC (Hudson Valley Chapter.) All active and retired veterans are admitted FREE (must provide valid military ID at the box office) and the first 500 veterans to arrive will receive a free commemorative T-shirt at the gate.

**August 14, 2013:** Dedication recognizing 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of Camp Shanks and 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of V-J Day and V-E Day. 6:30 p.m. at the end of the Piermont Pier.

**August 24, 2013:** Rockland Lake Red Knights NY-18 – Benefit Country Western Night from 6:00 – 11:00 p.m. to be held at the American Legion Hall, Station Road, Pomona, NY. For further information call chapter President Richie Bird at 845-558-1971 or email: redknightsny18@yahoo.com.

**September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013:** Patriot's Day Golf Outing at Patriot Hills Golf Course in Stony Point, New York. For further information, contact Peter Scheibner via e-mail at: [ScheibnP@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:ScheibnP@co.rockland.ny.us) or call him at 845-364-3675.

**September 12, 2013:** 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 further information, contact Cherie Berk, NY State Chairperson/Freedom Day USA at 845-558-8686 or visit their website at: [www.freedomdayusa.org](http://www.freedomdayusa.org).

**September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013:** Shriner's Club Circus is offering the 12:00 noon performance on September 19<sup>th</sup>, free of charge to veterans and seniors. There are other circus performances scheduled as well for September 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> to be held at the German Masonic Grounds in Tappan, NY. For further information, contact Ralph Edwards at 845-356-6184 or via e-mail: [ralph@klownklub.org](mailto:ralph@klownklub.org).

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Bulldog Security in Spring Valley, NY has several openings for unarmed Security Guards and their first preference is to hire veterans. Most of the jobs are part time but a few are full time. They are mostly in retail settings or in apartment complexes. For further information, contact Christine at Bulldog Security (845-426-1221)

**Our Department of Labor Veterans' Representative is Natalie Hernandez. If you are in the market for employment possibilities or a career change, contact Natalie at 845-356-5429, e-mail: [Natalie.Hernandez@labor.ny.gov](mailto:Natalie.Hernandez@labor.ny.gov) or on twitter at NatDOLVetRep.**

## WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND TRIBUTE

This is a tribute by the West Virginia University Marching Band – Armed Forces Salute.

View video here:

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/MjPmmCtHmfE?rel=0>



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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](mailto: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**

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On the first Friday of each month, just after the 10:00 a.m. news-break, RockVets usually 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](http://www.wrcr.com). So please listen in, and call if you have questions or information to share.

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](mailto: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.**