



Florida Veteran

Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida, Inc.

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Florida's 29th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion

The date for the next Reunion is Apr 21st-24th at Wickham Park in Melbourne, Florida. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will be at the park for viewing April 17th-April 24th. As most of you are aware, *this is the Nations largest Veterans Reunion*. Make sure to visit the Reunion Website at www.floridaveteransreunion.com for up to date information regarding the schedule of events, including the Wall escort the preceding Sunday, hotel listings, camping information as well as vendor applications.

The Vietnam and all Veterans of Florida State Coalition would like to recognize the following members/organizations for awards that were presented at our Annual Banquet held this past January. Florida Dustoff Association - Organization of the Year, Tom Burton - Veteran of the Year, Bill Sauerwine - Member of the Year, and LaPlaya Resort and Suites - Business of the Year. Ralph Earrusso was presented with a Meritorious Service Recognition for his many years of dedication and support to all veterans.

In addition, our 2015 executive board members are: Robert "Doc" Neitzel, President, "Big" Al Diaz 1st Vice President, Ralph Earrusso 2nd Vice President, Roberta Neitzel, Secretary, Jacque Earrusso, Treasurer and Van Carter, Sgt of Arms.

A few reminders to members of the coalition:

Nominations are being accepted for President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The floor will be opened at the October 24^h general membership meeting at The Laplaya Resort and Suites in Daytona Beach, Florida and will continue

through the January Meeting to be held in Daytona Beach when the elections will be held. Installation of the Officers will take place that evening at the Annual Banquet and Awards Dinner.

Nominations are also being accepted for Veteran of the

Year, Member of the Year, Organization of the Year and Business of the Year. **Nominations must be received no later than November 20th, 2015 to be considered.** The Veteran of the Year will be voted on by prior recipients of this award. The remaining three awards are determined by the Executive Board of the Coalition. **The nominations for these prestigious awards must be submitted in a written biography and submitted to Robert Neitzel, President of the Coalition, to either the address listed on the front of the newsletter, or via e-mail to hdwizrd7@aol.com or to Al Diaz, Vice President at bigalchico@yahoo.com with a copy to Roberta Neitzel, Secretary at hdwizrd8@aol.com**

The January General Membership meeting is scheduled for January 22-24, 2016 at the La Playa Hotel and Resort in Daytona Beach. The evening of the 23rd is the Banquet and Awards Dinner. Please mark your calendar for this event. The cost of the room will be \$64.00 per night (excluding tax) and reservations must be made by December 20th 2015 in order to receive the discounted rate. Additional information will be forthcoming on our website VVOF.ORG immediately after the October meeting.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another year is quickly coming to an end..where does the time go? It seems that there is always so much to accomplish and time flies so quickly. The information we have obtained at the meetings throughout the year has been overwhelming (in a good way) and I would like to thank all that have attended and contributed to the discussions. I would also like to thank Florida Dustoff Association, The USA River Rats, The Vietnam Brotherhood The Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard and Tom Burton

for hosting our meetings this year. I know a lot of time and effort goes into hosting a meeting.

I would like to take a moment once again to stress the importance of disseminating the information to all members of your organizations that is provided by the Vietnam and All Veterans State Coalition at the General membership meetings or via e-mails. A good amount of this information contains pending Federal legislation that affects **all veterans**.

Why, you may ask it is important to share this information? Possibly, the information may help a fellow veteran with their disability claim with the VA, or let them know of a program or assistance that may be available to them and their family. In addition, if there is pending legislation that you or your organization feels warrants your support, or non-support, contact your Senator or Congressperson by e-mail, fax, letter or phone and let them know what your concerns are about the bill. Without your voice, your representative will not know how their constituents' feel and sometimes, not always, will sway their vote on the issue. **Remember a voice of many is heard above a voice of one.**

I would also like to remind everyone that membership for the coalition is everyone's responsibility. Please take some of the Coalition tri-folds and hand them out to your friends or other organizations that you feel would benefit from being a part of our organization. Take a few minutes of your time to explain to them what we are all about and the benefits of being involved.

We are heading into the cold weather months, and I would like to ask everyone to please keep our homeless veterans and their families in mind. Warm clothing of all sizes (for men, women and children), blankets, comforters, hats and gloves will be needed, as well as canned soup, stews (with pop top lids). If you are able to provide any of these items, there are several transitional facilities throughout the State that could use your support, as well as organizations geared solely on assisting our homeless brothers and sisters and their families.

In addition, as we head into the holiday season, I am pleased to announce that the Coalition has made a donation to Wreaths Across America for the placement of several wreaths at the Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Cemetery where my wife and I will be attending the ceremony and I ask that you please keep our troops that are serving overseas in mind. There are numerous organizations that send care packages to the troops, but more so during the

holiday season. I know that this is a busy time for all, but it only takes a moment or two of your time, while shopping for friends and family, to purchase a few extra items to send overseas. Let our Servicemen and Servicewomen be reminded that we support their efforts and sacrifices. Also please do not forget our children. Whether it be a child of a homeless veteran or a child whose family has hit hard times..it does not take much to pick up an extra gift to give a child a little happiness. Please donate to our transitional facilities or Toys for Tots throughout the State.

With Veterans Day approaching, I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for your service and hope that you partake in one of many events scheduled for this day. Roberta, my granddaughter and I will be joining the Vietnam Brotherhood for the Annual Parade in Orlando for the second year. I would also like to wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season and would like to thank you for the honor of having been the President for the past several years and hope you feel that I have served you well.

Robert Neitzel
President

**Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida State
Coalition**



VVB NEWS

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall

Well, I am half way through my first year as Wall Manager and all is well and it has been a good one. We have travelled from New York to Texas and many places in between with an estimated 80,000 visitors. As I write this, I am getting ready for my 12th event of the year. The Wall seems to be holding up well after its major overhaul last winter.

Product sales seem to be up and vehicle repairs are average. I was happy to be home for the Awards Lunch held by The Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard which was to thank everyone for all they do for our organization, as well as the reunion. With any luck I will be at the reunion meeting in September to start planning for next year. The 2016 schedule for The Wall looks to be booked, as well as the major Holidays for 2017.

God willing, my health will hold out for a number of years so I am able to take the Wall to many other cities for years to come.

Doc Russo
Wall Manager

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Cocoa, FL 32922

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FLORIDA DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION



**Dedicated Unhesitating Service To Our Fighting
Forces**

“So Others May Live”

On behalf of The Florida Dustoff Association I would like to take a moment to say “Welcome Home.” The Florida Dustoff Association is comprised of Dustoff Medics, Pilots, Corpsmen, Donut Dollies, Med-Evacs and many whom themselves have been “dusted-off” from The Vietnam, The Gulf War and OIF/OEF. **ALL ARE WELCOMED AT DUSTOFF!!**

This year’s officers are: Robert “Doc” Neitzel, President, Ron “Doc” Custer, Vice President, and Roberta Neitzel Treasurer/Secretary and Doc Combs, Chaplin.

Florida Dustoff continues to send packages overseas to support our troops and also continues to sell military pot holders. All proceeds from the sale of these pot holders go directly to our efforts of supporting the troops. Once again, we will be participating in Wreaths Across America December 12th at the Edgewater/New Smyrna Beach Cemetery in Edgewater and have made donations this year to both Honor-Release-Return for The Ride Home honoring POWs and MIAs in Andersonville, Palm Bay Paratroopers Association and Wreaths Across America.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate this past year’s recipients of awards in our organization: Member of the Year was Chris “Pegleg” Hamrick, Certificate of Appreciation for Service to Dustoff – American MedCare Supply, Ruari Voisey, Bill and Hjordis Sauerwine, Ralph and Jacque Earrusso, Steve Doan, Larry Dutro, Art Smith, Nancy Church, John Patton, Michelle Wakefield, Bobbi Jo Dino, Rose Fantaccione and Big Al Diaz. A plaque was presented to Florida Senator Dorothy Hukill. We also presented a plaque to the USA River Rats for Presentation of Colors at the January coalition meeting, as well as several members for their assistance during the meeting.

We are currently in the process of completing our website – www.DUSTOFFFL.ORG, so please feel free to take a peek, but please remember, it is currently under construction.

**Robert Neitzel - President Florida Dustoff
Association**

“WHEN I HAVE YOUR WOUNDED”



USARIVER RATS

It is with sadness to report that we have lost a few more members, Robert "Jukebox" Nyland and Dennis Evans. Like the others they will be missed by all.

It has been a fairly quiet year so far. We had our delicious Rib and Shrimp Dinners at our campsite this year at the Vietnam and all Veterans Annual Reunion in Melbourne. Along with our usual events at Vista Manor Nursing Home which were Easter Dinner, Fourth of July Cookout and Fun Day, the residents are looking forward to our Thanksgiving Dinner coming up in November. In July we did a Bike Run for K-9 for Warriors.

The National Veterans Homeless Support Stand Down will be on October 3, 2015 this year and as usual we will be doing the cooking, along with some members being Escorts and Volunteers.

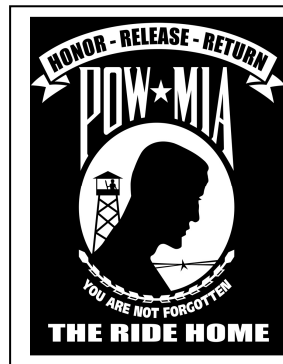
We will be having nominations for new officers coming up in October with elections in December. We are looking forward to having some new officers for the coming year.

That is all for now. You can always check out our website (usariverrats.com) for updates and upcoming events.

If you would like more information, or would like to consider membership in our organization, please feel free to contact any officer listed below.

President	Steve "Scarecrow" Worrell	321-698-0009
1 st Vice	Ron "Ronbo" Saxby	321-914-9046
2 nd Vice	Bill "Chapy" Chapman	321-403-4518
Treasurer	Al "Gunner" Dudley	321-258-3098
Secretary	Michelle "Screamer" Wakefield	321-323-4382
Chaplain	Tracy "Woody" Rac	321-684-1805
Quarter Master	Theresa "Jersey Girl" Lewis	609-556-9269
Historian		
Sr Sgt @ Arms	Skip "Grease Monkey"	321-431-3352
Sgt @ Arms	Linda "Sgt Smurf" Walker	321-507-8884
AsstSgt @ Arms	Jerry "Wolverine" Celona	321-431-3352
AsstSgt @ Arms	Andrea "LitBit" Howard	321-544-1230
AsstSgt @ Arms	Nicole "Luv Bug"	407-234-5907

	Morin	
AsstSgt @ Arms	Linda "Radar" Patricks	321-427-5756
AsstSgt @ Arms	Bobbie Jo "BAD" Dino	321-302-4781
AsstSgt @ Arms	Greg "Clueless" Boyle	321-327-4575
AsstSgt @ Arms	Gordon "Flash"	717-571-3199
AsstSgt @ Arms	Mike "Cowboy" Angelo	321-243-0369
SR Advisor	Al "Big Al" Diaz	321-863-0575
Advisor	Al "Gunner" Dudley	321-258-3098
Advisor	Robert "Dustoff" Neitzel	386-527-5445
Advisor	Wayne "Wayneo" Smith	321-698-5689



HONOR-RELEASE -RETURN, Inc.

3818 Litchfield Loop Lake Wales, Florida 33859

www.honorreleasereturn.com

The Mission

Working for the repatriation of live American Prisoners of War in any form of captivity world-wide. To devote all available manpower and resources of the organization to build political support through education and attain mission favorable outcomes. To craft and pass effective legislation, gain government action and success in repatriating Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action. To act as a catalyst for the POW/MIA community through communication, organization and coordination of efforts to foster common success of all and nurture a universal will to account for all the missing.

The Name

Why the name Honor Release Return? We have come together to take action and restore **honor** to our government by stopping the dishonor and hold them accountable. Our government has abandoned young patriots in captivity and we have come together to gain the **release** of their person alive or their remains and to **return** them to their country, their home and their family. This is our mission and this is our strategy. Truth and honor are our sabers. We will wield them unrelentingly and expertly, no matter how long the fight, until they all come home.

The Reason

Unaccounted for American Military Personal

WWI **WWII** **Korea** **Cold War** **Vietnam** **War on Terror**

3,344 73,677 7,926 126 1,654 6

Our Demands

1. U.S.G. formally request the return of all live Americans who are unaccounted for, in captivity or being detained in any foreign country
2. U.S.G. under take all measures necessary to repatriate all Americans who are unaccounted for, in captivity or being detained in any foreign country.
3. U.S.G. under take all measures necessary to obtain all information held and/or known by foreign governments, groups and individuals concerning all Americans who are now or who have been unaccounted for at any time.
4. All information, in any form regardless of when or how obtained, pertaining to Americans unaccounted for prior to 1991 be declassified and made available for public inspection.
5. Funding of all actions to account for Americans who are unaccounted for be fully funded by the U.S.G.
6. All remains recovered in association with unaccounted for Americans, past, present and future, be identified and/or confirmed using the latest scientific means and that all remains be tested and analyzed for age at death using minimal remains to allow for a 2nd, independent DNA analysis if family members so desire.

It is time for Americans to STAND for those who CANNOT STAND for themselves.

CONTACT US Together we can make happen!

BOB "Bulldog" Ousley bousle19@comcast.com

Jim "Moe" Moyer moehog@verizon.net



The Vietnam Brotherhood has had a very busy Spring and Summer. Delta Company; The Vietnam Brotherhood Delta Company is very active in our community. If you are interested in becoming a member, please feel free to contact us. Here is a list of our activities for the months of May – August.

May 2015

- Vietnam Brotherhood member and musician B.G. Garner, Sr. had the honor to be asked to be the opening act at History Park in Punta Gorda on Saturday, May 16, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Vietnam Brotherhood members were in attendance when the Southwest Florida Vietnam Memorial Wall Committee updated the Charlotte County Commissioners on the progress of the permanent Vietnam Memorial Wall that will be located in Laishley Park.
- An art auction was held on Thursday, May 14th, at the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Home.
- Members were at the Jacobson Nursing Home on Monday, 4 to help with bingo.

- Rich "Matador" Madore shared the article he wrote about the replica of the Vietnam Memorial that was published in the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Associations magazine (VHPA) asking for donations.
- On Friday, May 15, a check signing ceremony to put a down payment on the purchase the granite, was held at Charlotte Memorial
- Commanding Officer, Phil "Four Deuce" Menendez presented \$100 to Jacobson Nursing Home so they may celebrate Nurses Week.
- Vietnam Brotherhood members were in attendance at the Bike Night at Gilchrist Park on May 15.
- May 25 – Members attended the Memorial Day ceremonies at Laishley Park.
- May 26 – Members attended the Charlotte County Combat Wounded Recognition Heart ceremony at the County Commissioners meeting.

June 2015

- June 1 – Members helped at bingo at the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Home.
- June 6 – Members manned the Wall booth at the Sweet Heat BBQ Bash in North Port to raise money for the project.

July 2015

- July 4 – Members manned the table at Laishley Park and Charlotte Sports Park selling items for The Wall.
- July 6 – Members helped at bingo at Jacobson State Veterans Home.
- July 17-18 – Members attended the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida State Coalition meeting in Kissimmee. Meetings were held discussing Agent Orange, Legislation, PTSD, POW/MIA, etc. The Coalition's focus is on issues and concerns affecting Veterans and their families within the State of Florida before the State Legislature, State Veterans Planning Group, Florida Dept. of Veterans Affairs.
- July 28 – Members attended the Combat Wounded Recognition Award ceremony at the Charlotte County Commissioners meeting.

August 2015

- August 2 – Members attended a memorial service at American Legion Post 110 to honor the four Marines and one Sailor who were killed in Chattanooga.
- August 3 – Members attended bingo at Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Home.
- August 7 – Members attended the brick ceremony at Laishley Park, ice cream social at the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Home and reception at the Military Heritage Museum.

Hotel Company at this time is planning on having a float in the Orlando Veterans Parade which is the 2nd largest in

the country. A feature hit of the parade is friends and members of Hotel company passes out candy to the crowd.

The Vietnam Brotherhood Inc. a Florida chartered Non Profit Corporation but with members Nationally, is committed to provide assistance to Vietnam Veterans and their families as well as work with all other Veterans and their families in the local communities as needed. Should you have any questions about The Vietnam Brotherhood or like additional information please contact the CEO, Chris "Dai Uy" Bischoff.



VETERANS COUNCIL OF MARTIN COUNTY

The Veterans Council of Martin County Inc. is a federally tax-exempt charitable organization providing services to all military veterans in Martin County, Florida. Members of 13 local organizations, including Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and AMVETS posts, are members of the Veterans Council. All members serve on a voluntary basis so 100% of the proceeds received by the organization go to helping Martin County veterans.



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1041-MARTIN COUNTY

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1041, Martin County, is comprised of 100% active duty Veterans of the Vietnam era. Almost all are combat veterans and many have disabilities of one form or another from their combat duty. However, we consider ourselves "The Lucky ones". Our mission is to bring honor, respect, and aid to veterans

of all eras. We have no payroll, we pay no rent, we give of ourselves to aid other veterans, and nearly 100% of the money we raise goes to fulfill this mission in the local community.

Below are some of the projects we are currently working on or have planned:

Veterans Homeless Prevention Rapid Response Fund:
A fund of money that can be taped into in a matter of hours to prevent eviction of veterans and their families giving them time to work out a more long term solution and by working with the Martin County Office of Veterans Services.

Long Term Housing for Paralyzed Veterans:
Working with other agencies we hope to remodel single family homes so they are suited for the special needs of physically handicapped veterans.

Memorial Brick Markers:
Working with the City of Stuart to relocate existing Memorial Brick Markers and provide for new Memorial Brick Markers as part of the remodeled Veterans Memorial Park in The City of Stuart we are expanding the number of memorial brick pavers and providing a lasting tribute to those that have served and sacrificed for their country. If you wish to purchase a brick paver to honor and remember a veteran please visit our website to download an application at <http://www.vva1041.org>.

THE MEANING OF COINS LEFT ON TOMBSTONES

Have you ever been in a cemetery and saw coins laying upon a tombstone? There is actually a reason behind it. Read more, so you can know what each coin means, and maybe as you visit a fallen soldier you can leave a coin to honor them too. These meanings vary depending on the denomination of coin:

A coin left on a headstone lets the deceased soldier's family know that somebody stopped by to pay their respect. Leaving a penny means you visited.

A nickel means that you and the deceased soldier trained at boot camp together. If you served with the soldier, you leave a dime. A quarter is very significant because it means that you were there when that soldier was killed.

So what happens to the coins after Memorial Day? It is collected and the money is used for cemetery maintenance, the cost of burial for soldiers, or the care for indigent soldiers.

Supposedly the tradition became popular here in the United States during the Vietnam War. It is believed it was a way to show respect without getting into an

uncomfortable political discussion about a war that was very controversial.

In general, however, this tradition can be traced to as far back as the Roman Empire. It was a way to give a buddy some spending money for the hereafter.

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT)

At the July meeting a discussion was held and information was provided regarding Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) being used to treat TBI and PTSD. Here is some of the information that was provided. The suggestion was made that the VA needs to be made aware of this treatment as an avenue for our veterans as the meds they dispense for treating PTSD (Paxil and Zoloft) are FDA Approved for PTSD and both of these and nearly all the antidepressants carry an FDA black box warning urging caution in 17 – 24 year olds because of an increased risk of suicide.

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) is one of the best kept secrets in medicine. It involves breathing pure oxygen in a pressurized chamber. What occurs is remarkable as injured or damaged cells actually begin to replicate themselves using the DNA to create new non-injured cells! The inspiration of 100% oxygen under pressure allows it to reach the injured areas of the body.

We feature 2 Sechrist 3600E monoplace hyperbaric chambers. Each chamber is equipped with an entertainment center. This provides the patient the ability to watch their favorite TV show, enjoy a movie, or listen to music. We provide blankets and pillows in order to ensure maximum comfort while going through treatment.

ORCCA Hyperbarics, located in beautiful Delray Beach, Florida is the ONLY free standing hyperbaric oxygen facility in the United States that offers physical therapy on site. Why is this important? Because hyperbaric oxygen therapy releases your body's own CD34 + stem cells (cells targeted to salvage and restore damaged structures) and combining physical therapy/ neuro-rehab "loads" the area of concern - effectively driving the circulating stem cells to the injury. In fact, a single 2 hr exposure at 2 ATA doubles circulating CD34+ stem cells and after 20 hours of hyperbaric oxygen treatment, circulating CD34+ stem cells increased eightfold (800%). 1

At ORCCA Hyperbarics, we specialize in "off-label" conditions. And since we do not treat wounds and infections, like other facilities, this eliminates the chances of spreading infectious diseases. When you walk into our facility you will suddenly notice the family atmosphere we have created. Our staff is highly educated, trained, welcoming and compassionate to everyone that comes through our doors.

Raymond Cralle, RPT, a leading Physical Therapist specializing in Neuro-Rehabilitation as well as Sport Rehabilitation, has worked with children and adults with various disabilities as well as Polo players, NFL football players, NHL hockey players and

other athletes from around the world. Mr. Cralle and his staff combine the use of hyperbaric oxygen and rehabilitation and they have had amazing results!

The combination of hyperbaric oxygen and physical therapy is the best way to train the new stem cells that are released with hyperbaric oxygen in order to promote maximum rehabilitation. Raymond Cralle has over 40 years of experience in physical therapy and 20 years working with the late Dr. Richard Neubauer - considered the pioneer of "off-label" hyperbaric oxygen therapy. Mr. Cralle now follows Dr. Neubauer's lead by operating ORCCA (Oxygen Rescue Care Centers of America), LLC in Delray Beach, Florida.

Hyperbaric oxygen helps stroke victims recover the parts of their brain that have become dormant from the cerebral accident. HBOT has been proven effective for patients with Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Parkinson's disease, Lyme Disease, Dementia, Alzheimer's, Post Concussive Syndrome (PCS), Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), Sports Injuries, Near Drowning Accidents, Carbon Monoxide Poisoning, Smoke Inhalation, and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) which has become the signature wound of our soldiers due to concussive blast injuries from road side bombs. It also treats Multiple Sclerosis, autoimmune disorders such as Fibromyalgia, and Chronic Fatigue, non-healing wounds, arthritis, Crohn's disease and many other conditions.

A number of published studies show that hyperbaric oxygen will mobilize your own body's CD34+ stem cells making them available for repair anywhere needed in the body. This appears to increase nitric oxide production which directly increases stem cell production and release. Hyperbaric oxygen also increases vascularity (angiogenesis) and increases CD34+ stem cells by a factor of up to 8 (800%) and the oxygen concentration in tissue up to 2,000% - Thom et al. American Journal of Physiology November, 2005

Conditions and Diagnosis Proven and Effectively Treated by Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy

Note* some of these conditions are considered "Off- label" indications which are not covered by Medicare or other carriers in the USA, yet are covered and approved internationally. Nonetheless, these indications are frequently prescribed, whether or not they are covered by health care systems.

Actinomycosis
Acute Peripheral Arterial Insufficiency
Addiction/Alcohol & Drug Abuse

Fibromyalgia
Gas Gangrene
Heart Disease
Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss

AIDS/HIV	Lou Gehrig's Disease
Alzheimer's	Lyme Disease
Anoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy	Lymphedema
Anti-Aging/Wellness	Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Arthritis	Near Drowning Victims
Autism	Non Healing Wounds
Bone Infections	Radiation Damage (Osteoradionecrosis)
Brown Recluse Spider Bites	Parkinson's
Burns	Pre-Post Plastic Surgery
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	Necrotizing Infections
Cerebral Palsy	Radiation Tissue Damage
Chronic Fatigue	Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy
Syndrome Refractory Osteomyelitis	Soft Tissue Radionecrosis Spinal
Crohn's Disease	Injuries
Crush Injuries	Sports Injury
Cyanide Poisoning	Stem Cell Production
Dementia	Stroke
Diabetes	Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
	Veteran Suffering from PTSD
	Vision Loss
	Wounds

Additionally, the VA has a policy that limits veterans organizations' service officers to a 16-business-hour window in which to sign off on rating decisions. When an error is discovered in the draft rating decision, the service officer's only recourse is to contact the rater's coach. And if the rater's coach doesn't get back to the service officer within the 16-business-hour time limit so that the error can be corrected, it is too late to resolve the error informally. "It is wrong to penalize veterans because a rater's coach does not respond to the service officer within the VA's defined time limit. Service officers ought to be able to 'stop the clock' in those instances so that appeals can be prevented," said Rowan.

"Simply deciding an initial claim faster and shifting veterans over to a broken appeals process isn't the answer. Veterans deserve an accurate decision, first time up, and if necessary, a fair, accurate, and timely resolution at the lowest level possible," said Rowan.

The Website info for this organization is The Web site is <http://www.orccahbo.com/>

Initial VA Claims Backlog Reduced; Errors and Appeals on the Rise

(Washington, D.C.)-Vietnam Veterans of America recognizes that the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration has reduced the backlog of veterans' benefits claims. "However," said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, "we assert this reduction came at a loss of accuracy."

"This is evident by the fact that the claims appeals backlog has skyrocketed by 22 percent to over 307,700 appeals in the past three years. Furthermore, eighty percent of our cases brought before the Board of Veterans Appeals are won outright or returned to the Veterans Benefits Administration to be corrected. As a result, the veteran can wait for over five years for an accurate decision. To address the appeals backlog, it is imperative that the VA hire additional Decision Review Officers whose exclusive duties are to resolve appealed rating decisions at the VA's Regional Benefits Offices," said Rowan.

"Clearly, the pressure put on the VA claims raters to complete claims within the current 125-day standard has increased the VA's error rate, resulting in more veterans appealing their claims decisions than ever before," noted Rowan. This error rate has been confirmed by recent VA IG reports. As a result, the backlog has shifted from the claims process to the appeals process. More veterans are now trapped in the archaic and broken appeals system, facing a five-year wait to have their claims accurately adjudicated and their appeal resolved at the Board of Veterans Appeals.

VA Awards \$8 Million in Adaptive Sport Grants to Aid Disabled Veterans

Posted on September 15, 2015
by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald today announced the awarding of up to \$8 million in grants to eligible recipients with experience managing largescale adaptive sports programs for disabled Veterans and disabled Service members of the Armed Forces. The grant recipients may use these funds for planning, developing, managing and implementing adaptive sports programs.

The VA is awarding the Grants to national governing bodies, which prepare high-level athletes for Paralympic competition; Veterans service organizations; city and regional municipalities; and other community groups to provide a wide range of adaptive sports opportunities for eligible Veterans and Service members. The Grants will support sports ranging from rowing, cycling and skiing to golf, fly fishing and equestrian sports.

"Adaptive sports help Veterans heal both physically and emotionally," said Secretary McDonald. "We are proud to partner with organizations nationwide to provide these rehabilitative opportunities for America's Veterans." VA will distribute the grants to 89national, regional and community programs serving all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam.

Approximately 10,000 Veterans and Service members are expected to benefit.

Information about the awardees and details of the program may be found at www.va.gov/adaptivesports.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and The National Park Service Unveil Items Left At The Wall – The Virtual Collection

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) and the National Park Service (NPS) today unveiled Items Left at The Wall – a virtual collection of nearly 500 items left at The Wall that can now be seen at www.vvmf.org/items. This is the largest exhibit of items left at The Wall to be made available online, and is representative of the 400,000 items left since The Wall was dedicated in 1982.

Shortly after its dedication, visitors to the Memorial began leaving items in memoriam to those killed and missing service members listed on The Wall. The NPS collects, catalogs, and preserves these objects as part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection. Once the Education Center at The Wall is funded and constructed, approximately 4,000 – 6,000 items will be on public display, selected with curatorial support from VVMF.

“This is a collection of the people, by the people, and now available for the people to honor the service of all Vietnam veterans and remember the sacrifice of those who gave all,” said Jim Knotts, president and chief executive officer of VVMF. “These items tell an important story about the Vietnam War and era. Making these items available to the public is an important step toward building the Education Center at The Wall. I know website visitors will be awed and moved as they learn about these items, and they will understand how magnificent it will be to see 4,000-6,000 actual items on display once the Education Center is funded and built.”

“Since the Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened more than 30 years ago, family, friends and loved ones of the more than 58,000 men and women listed on The Wall have left keepsakes and remembrances as part of their grieving process,” said Karen Cucurullo, acting superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks. “As custodians of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection, the National Park Service is proud to partner with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to make this remarkable collection available online and tell the stories not only the men and women who served and made the ultimate sacrifice, but those they left behind.”

The collection of items left at The Wall tells the stories of the 58,307 service members listed on The Wall. It

tells of the families, the buddies, the friends, the onlookers – everyone impacted by the lives cut short by war. Themes of the collection include the camaraderie among soldiers, the ongoing suffering of those who served, the role of allies in the war, the impact of human sacrifice on families, the national dialogue on war and peace, and the legacy of service which continues after Vietnam.

The website will be updated with additional items as cataloging of the collection progresses.

To learn more about the Education Center at The Wall and how you can help make it a reality, go to www.buildthecenter.org.

About NPS

The National Park Service's National Mall and Memorial Parks preserves, protects, and interprets the symbolic and monumental civic spaces and commemorative works in the center of the Nation's Capital that honor American ideals and values, distinguished public figures, and military and civilian sacrifices and contributions. On the National Mall these sites include the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, World War II Memorial, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. National Mall and Memorial Parks also serves as a public park and open space for active civic and cultural engagement, recreation, and public enjoyment.

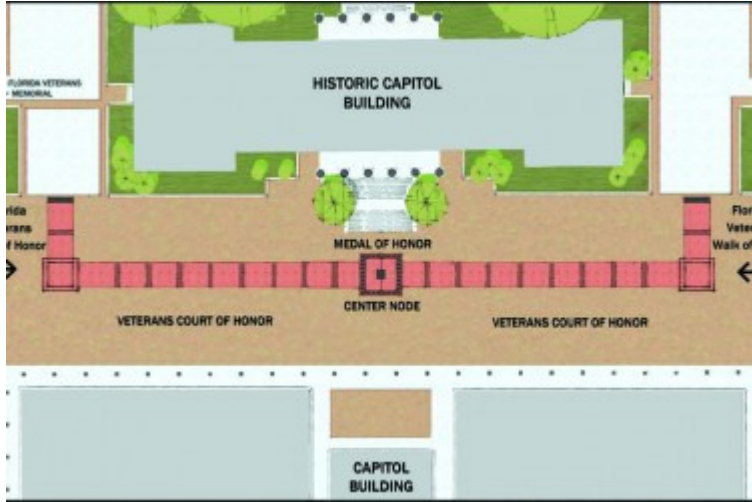
Florida Veterans Walk of Honor

On November 12, 2014, Governor Scott placed the first memorialized engraved brick into the Florida Veterans Walk of Honor.

The Florida Veterans Walk of Honor measures 12 feet wide by 500 feet long, and connects both the old and new Capitol buildings, the House and Senate Buildings and the future home of the Florida Veterans Memorial.

The Walk of Honor will consist of engraved bricks which are being offered to veterans, families and friends of veterans. The proceeds from the sale of the engraved bricks will go to the Florida Veterans Foundation to help further the Foundation's mission to Serve, Support and Advocate for our Florida Veterans. To order your brick, go to their website

<http://www.floridaveteransfoundation.org/florida-veterans-walk-of-honor> and download the [Walk of Honor Brick Order Form](#) or to submit online, click the Walk of Honor image in the sidebar to open the [online brick order form](#).



Walk of Honor Brick Order

There are presently 1.5 million veterans residing in the State of Florida. Your engraved brick will be placed on a first come, first serve basis. Therefore, the first 25,000 engraved bricks will be the ones placed in the Florida Veterans Walk of Honor at our State Capitol.

- Florida Veterans Medal Of Honor – \$200.00
- Florida Veterans Walk of Honor – \$150.00
- Florida Veterans Court of Honor – \$125.00

Navy and Coast Guard Ships Associated with Service in Vietnam and Exposure to Herbicide Agents

Recently, the VA added twenty-two (22) ships to the list of ships presumed to be exposed to Agent Orange. If you have been previously denied or have never filed because your ship was not listed, please see the current list. If you or someone you know suffers from Agent Orange related diseases such as (but not limited to) Diabetes, Heart Disease, Leukemia, Parkinson's Disease or certain types of cancer please visit a service officer at your earliest convenience and They will help you to obtain the VA

benefits you are entitled to. **The list is quite extensive – about 30 pages so we cannot include them here. For a complete listing please go to: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/list.asp>**

Background

This ships list is intended to provide VA regional offices with a resource for determining whether a particular US Navy or Coast Guard Veteran of the Vietnam era is eligible for the presumption of Agent Orange herbicide exposure based on operations of the Veteran's ship. According to 38 CFR § 3.307(a)(6)(iii), eligibility for the presumption of Agent Orange exposure requires that a Veteran's military service involved "duty or visitation in the Republic of Vietnam" between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. This includes service within the country of Vietnam itself or aboard a ship that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam. However, this does not include service aboard a large ocean-going ship that operated only on the offshore waters of Vietnam, unless evidence shows that a Veteran went ashore. Inland waterways include the rivers, canals, estuaries, delta areas, and enclosed bays of Vietnam. They do not include open deep-water harbors such as those at Da Nang, Nha Trang, Cam Ranh, or Vung Tau. These are considered to be part of the offshore waters of Vietnam because of their deep-water anchorage capabilities and open access to the South China Sea.

Ship Categories

The list contains five categories of ships that operated on the waters of Vietnam. A Ship is placed on this list when documentary evidence shows that it fits into a particular category. The required evidence can come from an official ship history, deck logs, cruise books, Captain's letters, or similar documents. A specific ship may be listed in more than one category, based on its activities. Evidence requirements for the presumption of Agent Orange exposure may vary depending on what dates the Veteran was aboard and what ship activity occurred on those dates. Ship categories include:

I. Ships operating primarily or exclusively on Vietnam's inland waterways This category includes smaller naval vessels involved with patrolling and interdicting enemy activity on the inland waterways of Vietnam. It also includes ships supplying and supporting those operations. Examples of such vessels include swift boats, river patrol boats, and LSTs [landing ship, tank]. The inland waterways are often referred to as "brown waters" because of their muddy color and the naval vessels operating on them are referred to as the Brown Water Navy and/or the Mobile Riverine Force. All Veterans who served aboard these vessels are eligible for the presumption of Agent Orange exposure because their primary service was on the inland waterways of Vietnam.

II. Ships operating temporarily on Vietnam's inland waterways This category includes large ocean-going ships that operated primarily on Vietnam's offshore waters

for gunfire support of ground operations and interdiction of enemy vessels travelling along coastal waters. It also includes ships supplying and supporting these operations. Examples of such vessels include destroyers, cruisers, and cargo ships. The deep offshore waters are often referred to as "blue waters" and naval vessels operating on them are referred to as the Blue Water Navy. Ships in this category entered Vietnam's inland waterways temporarily as part of their gunfire, interdiction, or support missions. All Veterans who served aboard these vessels at the time of entry into Vietnam's inland waterways are eligible for the presumption of Agent Orange exposure.

III. Ships that docked to shore or pier in Vietnam This category includes large ocean-going ships of the Blue Water Navy that entered an open water harbor and docked to a pier or otherwise docked to the shore of Vietnam. As a result of this docking, it is assumed that crewmembers had the opportunity to go ashore for a work detail or for liberty leave. Therefore, any Veteran aboard the ship at the time of docking will be eligible for the presumption of exposure if that Veteran provides a lay statement of personally going ashore

IV. Ships operating on Vietnam's close coastal waters for extended periods with evidence that crew members went ashore This category includes large ocean-going ships of the Blue Water Navy that conducted a variety of missions along the close coastal waters of Vietnam for extended periods of time. Documentary evidence has been obtained for all ships in this category showing that some crewmembers actually went ashore. Examples of such vessels include hospital ships, harbor repair ships, mine sweepers, and seaplane tenders. Also included are combat ships, such as destroyers, when evidence shows that crewmembers went ashore. Because shore activity of some crewmembers has been documented, any Veteran aboard the ship at the time of documented shore activity will be eligible for the presumption of exposure if that Veteran provides a lay statement of personally going ashore.

V. Ships operating on Vietnam's close coastal waters for extended periods with evidence that smaller craft from the ship regularly delivered supplies or troops ashore This category includes large ocean-going ships of the Blue Water Navy that conducted supply missions to Vietnam or transported troops into and out of the country through use of smaller landing craft housed within the mother ship. Examples of such vessels include attack cargo ships, amphibious attack transports, and landing ship docks. The smaller landing vessels within these ships required a crew of from 3 to 14, depending on size, as they ferried supplies or troops to and from shore. Although official documents show that some crewmembers went ashore with the landing craft, they do not generally provide the names of these crewmembers. Additionally, many of these ships are listed for extended time frames because they routinely travelled back and forth between the US and Vietnam, and between Vietnam and other Asian Pacific ports, as they delivered supplies and troops to Vietnam. Therefore, military records should be checked to ensure

that the Veteran was aboard when the ship was in Vietnamese waters (as shown by a PIES O34 request).

Any Veteran aboard the mother ship during the time frame of offshore Vietnam landing craft activity will be eligible for the presumption of exposure if that Veteran provides a lay statement of personally going ashore with the landing craft.

Locating Ships on the List

In addition to its name, all US Navy and Coast Guard vessels are assigned letters and numbers, usually painted on the forward hull of the ship, that identify the ship type and the numerical order in which it was built. Ships on this list are arranged by these letter-number designations. Vessels within each category are arranged alphabetically by the ship type letter designations and then numerically by hull numbers within that ship type. As an example, for the USS Ingersoll (DD-652), "DD" represents the "destroyer" ship type and the number shows that this is the 652nd destroyer built for sea service. A computer search for specific ship names or letter-number designations can be done with the "Find" function located in the drop down menu of the toolbar "Edit" function.

This list is evolving and is not complete. Therefore, the presumption of Agent Orange exposure should not be denied solely because the Veteran's ship is not on this list. All development procedures described in Training Letter 10-06 should be followed in cases involving ship activity, including sending a request to the Army and Joint Services Records Research Center for review of deck logs. When regional office personnel obtain evidence showing that a ship fits into any of these categories, the evidence should be forwarded to the Compensation Service Agent Orange Mailbox so that the ship can be added to the list [VAVBAWAS/CO/211/AGENTORANGE].

Story of the Youngest Medal of Honor Recipient - Jacklyn Lucas

It's hard to imagine a 14 year old would have the guts to make a move like this American hero. Step away from your daily frustrations and read about Jacklyn Lucas, a certified bad ass. This is the story of one of the youngest MOH recipient in US history.

By the age of 14, Jack already looked much older. Relatively tall for his age and brawny at 180 pounds, Jack had no trouble convincing the Marine Corps recruiters that he was 17 when he enlisted in August of 1942. Notably, to enlist at age 17 (as opposed to 18), Jack needed a parent signature, so he forged his mother's.

Jack did his basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina and qualified as both a rifle sharpshooter and a heavy machine gun crewman. In November 1943, he was assigned to the 6th Base Depot of the V Amphibious Corps

at Camp Catlin in Oahu, Hawaii. There he achieved the rank of Private First Class in January of 1944. However, after reviewing a letter Jack had written to his girlfriend, military censors realized he was only 15 years old. He was then removed from his combat unit, but rather than sent home (something he argued heavily against), he was assigned to truck driving. Of course, being "in the rear with the gear" was not Jack's idea of military service. Angry, he got into so many fights that he was ultimately court-martialed and spent 5 months breaking rocks and consuming mostly bread and water.

Released from the stockade by January 1945 and still determined to see combat, Jack walked away from his post that month and stowed away on the USS Deuel, a transport ship heading toward fighting in the Pacific. Because he left his assignment, he was declared a deserter and reduced in rank to Private. Now closer to the action, after hiding for about a month, Jack finally turned himself in on February 8, 1945, once again volunteering to fight. On February 14, he turned 17. By February 20, he got his wish and was fighting on the island of Iwo Jima.

During the battle on February 20, 1945, Jack and his comrades were advancing toward a Japanese airstrip near Mount Suribachi (Some reports say Jack made his initial advance without a rifle). Taking cover in a trench under heavy fire, Jack realized they were only feet away from enemy soldiers in a neighboring trench. He managed to shoot two of the soldiers before two live grenades landed in his trench.

Thinking quickly, Jack threw himself on the first grenade, shoving it into volcanic ash and used his body and rifle to shield the others with him from the pending blast. When another grenade appeared directly after the first, he reached out and pulled it under himself as well. His body took the brunt of the blasts and the massive amount of shrapnel. His companions were all saved, but his injuries were so serious they thought he had died. Only after a second company moved through did anyone realize he was somehow still alive.

Jack endured nearly two dozen surgeries and extensive therapy and convalescence. Despite the surgeries, over 200 pieces of shrapnel remained in his body for the rest of his life.

Shortly after his act of heroism, on February 26, 1945, the deserter classification was removed and he was restored to the rank of Private First Class. Ultimately all 17 of his military convictions were also cleared. Nonetheless, he was unfit for duty and discharged from the Marines on September 18, 1945.

On October 5, 1945 President Harry S Truman awarded Jack, and 13 other recipients at that ceremony, the Medal of Honor. Notably, however, at 17 he was the youngest there and the youngest to ever receive the award. For his bravery and service, Jack also received the Presidential Unit Citation, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific

Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and a Purple Heart.

So what happened after? Besides graduating high school and earning a business degree, at the age of 31, he enlisted as a First Lieutenant in the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army. During his first training jump, according to his team leader, Jack was the last one out of the plane and the first one on the ground. You see, neither of his parachutes opened. Despite this and an approximately 3,500 foot fall, he miraculously survived with only minor injuries. Two weeks later, he was back jumping out of planes.

Once he returned to civilian life four years later, he opened a chain of beef selling businesses in Washington, D.C., married a few times (including one wife who tried to have him killed), and later, with the help of D.K. Drum, published an autobiography aptly titled, Indestructible.

On June 5, 2008 Jack passed at 80yrs old at a hospital in Hattiesburg, Mississippi from leukemia with family and friends by his side.

Wreaths Across America Launches 2015 Campaign

THIS YEARS CEREMONY WHICH IS TAKING PLACE DECEMBER 12TH THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Volunteers Will Place 225,000 Holiday Wreaths at Each Veteran's Head Stone in Arlington National Cemetery; Wreaths to Travel from Maine to Virginia via Convoy of 50 Long-Haul Tractor-Trailers

Wreaths Across America goal is to honor every veteran buried at Arlington National Cemetery. This year the organization's National Remembrance Ceremony at Arlington will take place on Saturday, Dec.12.2015. During the day, thousands of volunteers will place a holiday wreath and hold a brief moment of silence at each veteran's head stone — 225,000 in total. To fulfill its mission, Wreaths Across America seeks to significantly expand sponsorships and wreath donations by mid-November.

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization founded in 2007 by the Worcester family, owners of the Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine. The wreath-laying effort began with a simple act of patriotism when co-owner of the Worcester Wreath Company, Morrill Worcester, donated 5,000 evergreen wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery in 1992. Today, the annual pilgrimage from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery is known as the world's largest veteran's parade with 50 long-haul tractor trailers from major sponsors making the week-long journey. "It is our great honor to place a holiday wreath on every head stone at Arlington to ensure that all of those buried on this hallowed ground are uniquely acknowledged and remembered for sacrificing their lives to protect our freedoms," said Karen Worcester, executive

director, Wreaths Across America. "For this reason, we are committed to coordinating this parade, creating and distributing the wreaths and securing the logistical support necessary to successfully execute an event of this scale. Our hope is that veterans across the country will view this event as a symbol of the American people's profound appreciation."

The parade will stop at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities along the way to remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach — in keeping with the organization's mission to teach younger generations about the value of their freedom and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms.

This year, including the effort at Arlington, Wreaths Across America will distribute 400,000 wreaths nationwide, providing support for memorials in all 50 states, including special services at Valley Forge Military Academy, Pearl Harbor, Bunker Hill, Charleston Naval Shipyard, and a wreath for every victim of 9-11 in New York City, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa.

Currently, there are 33 cemeteries throughout the State of Florida that partake in this event.

To make a donation to this program, for more information, or to locate a local ceremony to participate in, their web address is: <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>

History of Wreaths Across America

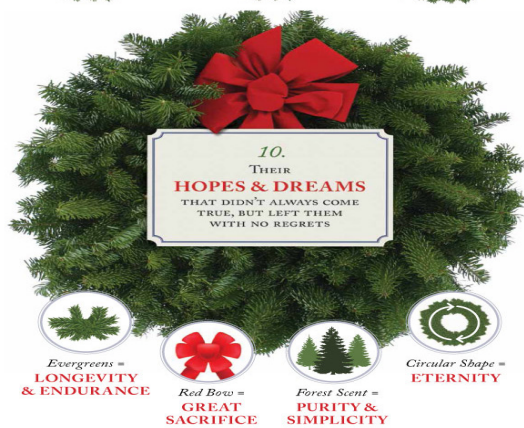
Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, was a 12 year old paper boy for the Bangor Daily News when he won a trip to Washington D.C. His first trip to our nation's capital was one he would never forget, and Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. This experience followed him throughout his life and successful career in business, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of this nation and the Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their Country.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's Veterans. With the help of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery, a section which had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year.



A veterans' wreath is a symbol of HONOR, RESPECT and VICTORY.

10 BALSAM BOUQUETS = 10 SPECIAL QUALITIES
comprising each veterans' wreath that our veterans embody



“ THIS YEAR, WHEN YOU PLACE A WREATH ON A VETERAN'S GRAVE, you will know it is not just a wreath. It's *your* personal gift to an American hero, and you'll swell with pride and have a tear in your eye knowing you've done something very, very special. God bless our veterans and God bless America. ” —MORRILL WORCESTER, FOUNDER OF WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



As plans were underway, a number of other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. James Prout, owner of local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation all the way to Virginia. Volunteers from the local American Legion and VFW Posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red, hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington, D.C. helped to organize the wreath-laying, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The annual tribute went on quietly for several years, until 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned

with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the project received national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help with Arlington, to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries, or to simply share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes.

Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state, one for each branch of the military, and for POW/MIAs. In 2006, with the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath laying ceremonies were held at over 150 locations around the country. The Patriot Guard Riders volunteered as escort for the wreaths going to Arlington. This began the annual "Veterans Honor Parade" that travels the east coast in early December.

The annual trip to Arlington and the groups of volunteers eager to participate in Worcester's simple wreath-laying event grew each year until it became clear the desire to remember and honor our country's fallen heroes was bigger than Arlington, and bigger than this one company.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual Veterans wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501-(c)(3) organization, to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. The mission of the group is simple:

Remember. Honor. Teach.

In 2008 over 300 locations held wreath laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves. Over 60,000 volunteers participated.

December 13, 2008 was unanimously voted by the US Congress as "Wreaths Across America Day".

In 2014, Wreaths Across America and our national network of volunteers laid over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond. We were able to include ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, as well as Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the sites of the September 11 tragedies. We accomplished this with help from 2047 fundraising groups, corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands. Our goal of covering Arlington National Cemetery was accomplished in 2014 with the placement of 226,525 wreaths.

The wreath laying is still held annually, on the second or third Saturday of December. Our annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery has become known as the world's largest veterans' parade,

stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach.

Wreaths Across America also conducts several programs to honor our Veterans, including our popular "Thanks a Million" campaign which distributes cards to people all over the country to give Veterans a simple "thank you" for their service. We participate in Veterans' events throughout the year, and have a Veteran liaison on staff to work with local Veterans organizations.

WAA is committed to teaching younger generations about the value of their freedoms, and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. We offer learning tools, interactive media projects, and opportunities for youth groups to participate in our events. We also work to create opportunities to connect "the Greatest Generation" with the "Generation of Hope". The inspirational stories of our World War II Veterans must be passed on to the leaders of the future.

Wreaths Across America would not be successful without the help of volunteers, active organizations and the generosity of the trucking industry. We thank them for working with us to remember the men and women who served our country, honor our military and their families, and teach our children about our freedom and those who protect it.

- See more at:
<http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/about/history/#sthash.h.JcGklqB6.dpuf>

Military Addressing Tips

Make sure your mail reaches our troops

Our troops look forward to receiving your letters and packages. That's why it's important to make sure your mail gets there, to the right person, in the right place.

The Department of Defense has issued the following guidelines for addressing your mail to military and civilian personnel deployed overseas

1. **Use the service member's full name.** The Department of Defense cancelled the [Any Service Member program](#) so mail must be addressed to someone specific.
2. **Include the unit and APO/FPO/DPO** (Air/Army Post Office or Fleet Post Office) address with the nine-digit ZIP Code™ (if one is assigned). [Click-N-Ship®](#) customers should be advised that the Postal Service and the Military will continue to add and update valid APO/FPO addresses for your online labels.
3. **Include a return address.**
4. **For packages, print on one side only** with the recipient's address in the lower right portion or print a postage-paid label online with [Click-N-Ship®](#). (Please note that ZIP Codes 093XX and 964XX are currently unavailable for electronic labels)

What special precautions should I use when packaging overseas military mail?

Following these precautions will safeguard your package on the way to its final destination:

- 1 Place the mailing address inside the parcel on a separate piece of paper.
- 2 Use a box that is constructed to conform to the contents you are sending.
- 3 Ensure the weight of the items in the box is evenly distributed.
- 4 Add packing material on the inside if any portion of the box sags or is easily depressed.
- 5 Use packaging tape for wrapping the outside of the box. Do not wrap with string.
- 6 Cross out or cover excess markings or printing to prevent your box from being misssent.
- 7 Enclose all personal hygiene items, such as deodorant, lotion, or shampoo, in a sealable bag.
- 8 Place all perishable items, such as cookies, chips, etc., in a plastic container.
- 9 Do not mail liquids of any kind, especially carbonated drinks, which can explode during transit.

Military Care Package Mailing Kit

Since Priority Mail service supplies are the packaging of choice for families preparing care packages for service members overseas, the USPS has created a "Mili-kit" based on the items most frequently requested by the **military**.

The kit contains:

- Three (3) each of flat rate boxes O-FRB1 and O-FRB2
- Two (2) each of Cube boxes OBOX7
- Address labels - Label # 228: 8 each
- Address labels - Label # 106-A: 1 each
- Customs FORM 2976-A: 8 EA.
- Customs FORM Envelope 2976-E: 8 EA.

To order the kit, call 800-610-8734. Guidelines for packing, addressing, and shipping items to U.S. troops can be found at usps.com/ship/apo-fpo-guidelines.htm. [Click here](#) to order flat-rate boxes featuring the "America Supports You" logo.

1. Choose your language ("1" is English, "2" is Spanish).
2. Choose option 1 (it states it is for Express Mail service, Priority Mail or Global Express Guaranteed).
3. When you reach a live agent, request "**CAREKIT04**."
4. Please allow 7-10 days for delivery.

Note: These are free supplies, postage must be affixed.

Additionally, you can find guidelines for packing, addressing, and shipping items to U.S. troops at www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/.

Holiday Dates for Military Mail Calculated for December 25, 2015.

Military Mail Addressed To and From	Priority Mail Express Military Service (PMEMS) ¹	First-Class Mail Letters and Cards	Priority Mail	Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL) ²	Space Available Mail (SAM) ³	Standard Post
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec-17	Dec-10	Dec-10	Dec 3	Nov-25	Nov-7
APO/FPO AE ZIP 093	N/A	Dec-3	Dec-3	Dec-3	Nov-25	Nov-7

APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098	Dec-17	Dec-10	Dec-10	Dec-3	Nov-25	Nov-7
APO/FPO AA ZIP 340	Dec-17	Dec-10	Dec-10	Dec-3	Nov-25	Nov-7
APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Dec-17	Dec-10	Dec-10	Dec-3	Nov-25	Nov-7

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE COALITION?

There are many benefits to join the Vietnam and All Veterans State Coalition. A voice of many is heard above a voice of one. The coalition meets quarterly at various locations in the State of Florida and we discuss and disseminate information pertaining to veterans and their benefits. **We also are represented on the of the board Florida Veteran Council which helps**

determine policies in the State
To obtain information regarding joining the coalition either as an Organization, or an individual, please visit our website at VVOF.ORG.

If you or your organization is already a member of the coalition, and there has been a change in officers, please immediately advise the coalition of these changes, including mailing addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers so we may keep you up-to-date with all pertinent information.

FAIR USE NOTICE: This newsletter contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. The Vietnam and ALL Veterans of Florida, Inc. are making such material available in our efforts to advance understanding of: POW/MIA, Military, Veterans, Health, democracy, and scientific issues, etc.

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<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>

All inquiries, questions or comments may be directed to the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. All articles printed in our newsletters are strictly the opinion of the submitter and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida State Coalition or its member organizations. Updated September 17, 2006

THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL



About Our Wall

Our Wall is a 3/5 scale of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC, it stands six feet tall at the apex and covers almost 300 feet from end to end. The Memorial Wall is sponsored by The Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard (VVB). Work to build our Wall was started in April of 2005. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall was completed and first shown to the public April 24, 2006.

This Traveling Memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War. It was made for the purpose of helping heal and rekindle friendships. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall also allows people the opportunity to visit loved ones in their home town, who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington.

The names on The Wall were painstakingly researched from five different data bases and cross-referenced with the Department of Informational and Organizational Reports (DIOR) in Washington, DC, and is one of the most correct and up-to-date traveling wall in the country.

Feel free to take a look at our website www.travelingwall.us, read about what we have to offer. Please contact us with any questions you might have in regards to The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall coming to your town.

Copyright The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall 2006-07

Officers 2015

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