

# DMVA Digest

A publication of Pennsylvania's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
November 22, 2017

## DMVA News

### **DMVA Still Needs To Locate 52 Photos From PA For Vietnam National Memorial:**

Help honor those from Pennsylvania who paid the ultimate sacrifice as a result of the Vietnam War. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund virtual Wall of Faces in Washington, D.C. still needs to locate 52 photos from 12 different counties in Pennsylvania to put a face with a name. To see a full list of names and for information on how to submit a photo, please visit [website](#).

### **Dance Team Visits DMVA's Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center In Scranton, PA:**

A group of Abington Heights High School students, comprised of members of the school's marching band and dance team, gave up a portion of their day off in observance of Veterans Day to visit with and perform for residents at the Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center in Scranton, PA (Lackawanna County). The activity was initiated by student Nina Sampogne, who explained, "What better way to celebrate Veterans Day than to share it with veterans?" [Read more.](#)

### **DMVA Would Like To Connect With Every Veteran:**

To ensure that every veteran in Pennsylvania has access to the services and benefits they have earned, DMVA has developed the Pennsylvania Veterans Registry. The registry increases communication between DMVA and the nearly 820,000 veterans in the commonwealth. Family members and advocates for veterans can also register. Registering is quick, easy and confidential. Please share this information with a loved one who has served in the military. Register today to at the Veterans Registry website, [register.dmva.pa.gov](http://register.dmva.pa.gov).

## Around the State

### **Centre County To Add To Veteran Memorial List:**

The national American Legion organization is looking to inventory all memorials dedicated to veterans in the U.S. "Centre County currently is finishing up its list of local memorials with the help of local veterans and volunteers," said Sue Hannegan, assistant director of the county planning office. [Read more.](#)

## **Chaffin Luhana Foundation Provides Turkeys And Trimmings To Greater Pittsburgh:**

Pennsylvania has the fourth largest veteran's population in the country, and Allegheny County is home to over 86,000 veterans. Unfortunately, 11.8 percent of those between the ages of 18 and 34 live below the poverty line, and nearly 60,000 of veterans living in Pennsylvania need help buying food. [Read more.](#)

## **Clearinghouse releases veteran needs report:**

Approximately 20 million veterans currently live in the United States. While the overall veteran population is expected to decrease, the diversity of the remaining group is expected to increase in the coming years. The Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Penn State has released "Supporting United States Veterans: A review of veteran-focused needs assessments from 2008-2017." The report reviewed veterans needs assessments from the past decade and identified the most common needs to include: mental health, physical health and well-being, employment, housing, transportation, financial literacy and social support. [Read more.](#)

## **Cumberland County Commissioners, Rabbittransit Announce New Shuttle Service For Veterans:**

Cumberland County veterans seeking care at the VA Medical Center in Lebanon County will have a new way to get there. The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners and its Veterans Affairs Office is partnering with rabbittransit to provide a new veterans shuttle service that will transport Cumberland County veterans to the VA Center. [Read more.](#)

## **Duquesne Hosts State's Biggest Veterans Breakfast:**

Members of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh expressed gratitude for the service of American veterans by hosting the state's largest Veterans Day breakfast. Approximately 700 veterans attended the breakfast in the Union Ballroom on the morning of Nov. 11 (Veterans Day). The event master of ceremonies was Duquesne University's Don Accamando, the director of the Office of Military and Veteran Students and former lieutenant colonel in the Air Force. [Read more.](#)

## **Question Persuade Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training:**

Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. This customizable two to three hour course is available to individuals and community groups at no charge as part of WellSpan Philhaven's commitment to improving the mental health and resilience of our community. [Register.](#)

## **Scranton Man Helped Found American Legion:**

A West Scranton man who served as an attache to Gen. John J. Pershing and lieutenant governor under Gifford Pinchot also helped found the American Legion. David J. Davis was born in Knightsville, IN. He served in the Spanish-American War

and then in World War I, where he was sent to France as part of the 28th Division, which included Scranton's 109th Infantry. [Read more.](#)

### **Veterans Honored At Mansfield University:**

Students, faculty, staff and administrators who are veterans, reserves, ROTC or active duty military were honored with a veteran's appreciation luncheon at Mansfield University in Tioga County. Interim President Scott Barton thanked all members of the Mansfield family who have served and are serving in the military. [Read more.](#)

## **Across the Nation**

### **218 Schools Make Military Times: Best Colleges 2018 Rankings:**

The rankings were more competitive than ever this year, as a record number of schools participated in an annual survey, and less than half made the cut. Colleges were evaluated based on their survey responses and also data was used from the federal Education, Defense and Veterans Affairs departments to determine how schools stacked up across five categories: university culture, academic quality and outcomes, policies, student support, and cost and financial aid. [Read more.](#)

### **Army To Begin Providing Medical Care To Volunteers Who Participated In Chemical And Biological Substance Testing:**

The U.S. Army is notifying veterans that they may be eligible to receive medical care if they participated in U.S. Army chemical or biological substance testing from 1942 to 1975 and have an injury or disease that they believe was proximately caused by their participation. [Read more.](#)

### **Elks Support Homeless Vets:**

Members of the Jackson Elks Lodge in Jackson Township, New Jersey recently assisted homeless veterans as part of a project for Operation Chillout. Earlier this fall, members loaded up 30 backpacks with toiletries, blankets, sweatshirts, and jackets and gave them to the veterans assisted by Operation Chillout. [Read more.](#)

### **Financial Aid Guide For Military And Veterans:**

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the federal effort to facilitate higher education for veterans has been successful. A recent study found that 79 percent of veterans who enrolled in higher education programs in 2016 were beneficiaries from the post-9/11 GI Bill. These results show that servicemembers are returning to school and capitalizing on these benefits at higher rates than they have in decades. [Read more.](#)

### **Innovative Photo Technology Saves Veterans Lives:**

The costs in the United States for treating chronic non-healing wounds exceed \$50 billion per year. It's prevalent in roughly 2 percent of the general population, including veterans like Mike Franks. [Read more.](#)

## **Let Veterans Affairs (VA) Help You Quit Smoking During The Great American Smokeout:**

Every day, every year, veterans find great reasons to quit smoking cigarettes. Some are concerned about the long-term health effects, others may be having a baby, trying to run more, or just trying to save some money. No matter why a veteran wants to quit, the process can be difficult. [Read more.](#)

## **New Public Service Campaign Asks You To Be There For Veterans And Service Members:**

VA, in partnership with Johnson & Johnson, released a new public service announcement, "No Veteran Left Behind," to address the tragic rate of veteran suicides. Narrated by actor and filmmaker Tom Hanks, the announcement calls on the public to take notice and action by reaching out to a veteran who may be in crisis. [Read more.](#)

## **November Is National Native American Heritage Month:**

The National Museum of the American Indian will honor Native American servicemembers in a very visible way. The museum is expected to be built by 2020 and will be a prominent memorial on the National Mall, a place that draws nearly 24 million visitors annually to Washington, DC. [Website.](#)

## **Online VA Scheduling Now Available Through My HealtheVet:**

You can now manage your primary care and certain specialty care VA appointments online at participating VA facilities. You will need a Premium My HealtheVet Account to use online scheduling. If you do not have a Premium account, please visit My HealtheVet or contact the My HealtheVet coordinator at your nearest VA facility. U.S. Army veteran G. Paul Moffett, who helped test online scheduling at the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System in Murfreesboro, says it's about giving veterans greater control over scheduling their care. [Read more.](#)

## **Post-9/11 Vet Newsletter - Fall 2017:**

Read the latest issue of the yearly Post 9/11 Vet Newsletter. This edition features information on environmental health registries including the burn pit registry, research findings, joint VA and Department of Defense programs, and more. [In this issue.](#)

## **Veterans, History Honored At Orangeburg County Military Museum Program:**

Residents and officials who gathered at the Orangeburg County Military Museum in Springfield, SC for a Veterans Day observance walked up a hardwood staircase in the nearly century-old stairwell of the town's historic and architectural jewel, the Springfield School. Veterans from various theaters of war, from Iraq to World War II, were honored during the program. [Read more.](#)

## **Why Does VA Ask Veterans For Their Private Health Insurance Information?:**

When veterans are being treated for a non-service connected condition, VA asks for their private health insurance information. VA has released this short video titled "Private Health Insurance: How it Helps You." [Read more.](#)

## Employment Opportunities

*This listing is offered as a resource to both Pennsylvania's veterans and businesses that seek to employ veterans. The DMVA has not investigated the positions being offered or the businesses listed, and does not warrant or guarantee either the availability or the terms and conditions of the positions listed. Please contact the employers represented in this listing directly. To have an employment opportunity listed please email: [RA-VA-Newsletter@pa.gov](mailto:RA-VA-Newsletter@pa.gov)*

### **U.S. Department of Labor Announces Vets Medallion Program:**

The U.S. Department of Labor today announced its final rule for the Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing (HIRE) American Military Veterans Act. The law, signed by President Donald Trump, creates the HIRE Vets Medallion Program, which will recognize companies and organizations for their efforts to recruit and retain America's military service veterans.

Contact Joe Versen at 202-693-4696 or email [versen.joseph.h@dol.gov](mailto:versen.joseph.h@dol.gov) for more information.

[Read more.](#)

### **Gov. Tom Wolf Visits Appvion Spring Mill, Highlighting The Importance Of Apprenticeships In Rural Areas:**

Gov. Tom Wolf recently visited Appvion Spring Mill to meet with employees and apprentices to learn about the 151-year-old plant and to highlight the importance of workforce training and job creation as it pertains to rural Pennsylvania. "Appvion's long history of growth and innovation in manufacturing paper products, and as a fixture in rural Blair County, emphasizes the impact of a company that gives job seekers and incumbent workers a competitive edge by providing them with practical, hands-on job experience," said Wolf. [Read more.](#)

### **Two Part Time On-Farm Jobs Available In Westmoreland County At Veteran-Owned Farms:**

Pennsylvania Veteran Farmer Project at Pleasant Lane Dairy near Latrobe (Westmoreland County) and Lindwood Farms, breeder of champion Standardbreds, have openings.

Point of contact: Todd Frye Pleasant Lane Dairy 724-610-1552 or Dennis Hoffman Lindwood Farms 724-836-1802, ext. 26

[Apply.](#)

## Veteran Events

*This listing is offered as a service to individuals and organizations to promote their veteran and military-oriented events being held in Pennsylvania. The information is taken directly from emailed submissions from requestors. DMVA is not responsible for incorrect information submitted. Please send details on events to [RA-VA-Newsletter@pa.gov](mailto:RA-VA-Newsletter@pa.gov) and include the following key pieces of information: 1. Name of event, 2. Date of event, 3. Time of event, 4. Address of event, 5. County of event, 6. Event website, 7. Point of contact name, 8. POC phone number, 9. POC email address, and 10. Additional details/coordinating instructions (fees, pre-registration, etc.)*

### **Veterans Breakfast Club (VBC) Morning Event:**

- Nov. 29, 2017, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- Grazie Restaurant (Oxford Athletic Club), 100 Village Club Dr., Wexford, PA (Allegheny County)
- R.S.V.P. to 412-623-9029 or [Todd@VeteransBreakfastClub.com](mailto:Todd@VeteransBreakfastClub.com). Please mention DMVA Digest when you R.S.V.P.
- The VBC is a nonprofit that creates communities of listening around veterans and their stories. Storytelling events, both morning and night, are held throughout western Pennsylvania. Veterans from World War II to Iraq and Afghanistan share their stories. They are open to the public, and you don't need to be a veteran to attend.
- [Facebook page](#).

### **Habitat For Humanity Of Bucks County:**

- Applications are being accepted through Nov. 30, 2017
- Point of contact: Stefanie Clark at 215-822-2812, ext. 307 or email [sclark@habitatbucks.org](mailto:sclark@habitatbucks.org)
- Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County is looking for qualified homebuyers for three homes in Lower Bucks County. Buyers must currently live or work in Bucks County to apply. Each property will be renovated once a homebuyer is selected.
- [Website](#).

### **Question Persuade Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training:**

- Dec. 5, 2017, 6-9 p.m.
- WellSpan Philhaven's Grace M. Pollock Training & Community Center, 283 S. Butler Rd., Mt. Gretna, PA (Lebanon County)
- Point of contact: Holly Leahy at 717-274-3415 or email [hleahy@lebcnty.org](mailto:hleahy@lebcnty.org)
- Participants must be 18 years of age or older.
- [Register](#)

### **Military Crossroads:**

- Dec. 9, 2017, 9-10:30 a.m.
- Spang Crest, 945 Duke St., Lebanon, PA (Lebanon County)
- R.S.V.P. by Dec. 1, 2017 at 717-272-8317 or email [CompeerCorpsLebanon@outlook.com](mailto:CompeerCorpsLebanon@outlook.com)
- Join us as we unite veterans of all service eras, their spouses, family and community friends to learn about the military experience.

## Wills For Heroes:

- Dec. 9, 2017, time slots: 11 a.m.; 12 p.m.; 1 p.m.; 2 p.m.; 3 p.m.; 4 p.m.
- Arcadia University, Grey Towers Castle, 450 South Easton Rd., Glenside, PA (Montgomery County)
- Point of contact: email Gabriele Miller-Wagner at [wfh.gmillerwagner@yahoo.com](mailto:wfh.gmillerwagner@yahoo.com) or Hannah Suhr [h.r.suhr@gmail.com](mailto:h.r.suhr@gmail.com)
- Invitation to ALL Pennsylvania military Veterans and first responders to obtain FREE estate plans. Schedule appointments online and use the password, "Arcadia." [Website.](#)

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