

# DMVA Digest

A publication of Pennsylvania's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
January 16, 2019

## DMVA News

### **DMVA Still Looking For 11 Photos Of Pennsylvania Veterans Who Paid Ultimate Sacrifice In Vietnam:**

To further honor and preserve the memory of our veterans for future generations, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund in D.C. is leading an initiative to locate a photo for every U.S. service member who died during Vietnam. Please help find the remaining 11 photos from three Pennsylvania counties. For information on how to submit a photo, visit: [Read more.](#)

### **Return The Favor – Mobile Veterans Outreach Program:**

Chip Gilliland is the chief of Reintegration and Outreach for the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. "The main thing that we do is provide information, point them in the right direction and answer their questions about federal VA benefits, state VA benefits," he said. Gilliland is referring to the mobile veterans outreach van that was recently stationed at the 2019 PA Farm Show. [Read more.](#)

### **Veterans Should Start The New Year With A Review Of Their Benefits:**

The New Year is a time for resolutions and fresh starts. The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs wants veterans to also review their benefits with a professional to ensure they are receiving the benefits they have earned through their service and sacrifice. [Read more.](#)

### **Veterans, Military & Their Families Day At The 2019 PA Farm Show:**

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to host Veterans, Military & Their Families on Jan. 10, 2019, as part of the 103rd PA Farm Show. Events featuring veterans and active duty military were held throughout the day. Learn more and view the Flickr album, [here.](#)

### **Veterans, Military Honored At Farm Show:**

The Pennsylvania Farm Show traditionally honors veterans and active military service members. Military Appreciation Day at the 103rd PA Farm Show included a lineup of events to thank veterans for their service. [Watch video.](#)

## Around the State

### **Attorney General Josh Shapiro Holds Pennsylvania Woman Accountable For Scamming Veterans:**

A case against a Pennsylvania woman for scamming veterans by making misrepresentations in advertising services pertaining to long-term health care, including U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Claims Benefit consultation and assistance has been settled. This was in violation of the Pennsylvania's Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law. [Read more.](#)

### **Gulf War Soldier Statue Will Go On Display In Lackawanna County:**

Known as the Freedom Fighter, the sculpture represents 440 hours of work for Mark Zinskie, a local artist and mason. He is working with Olyphant residents and officials with the Olyphant Borough Freedom Fighter Committee (Lackawanna County) to raise \$60,000 to cast the statue in stainless steel and include it as part of a planned monument at the Queen City Train Station on Lackawanna Avenue. [Read more.](#)

### **Indiantown Gap National Cemetery Is Looking For Volunteers To Help Remove Wreaths Laid At Gravesites During 'Wreaths Across America' Event:**

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery is looking for volunteers to assist with Operation Clean Sweep, an effort to remove more than 40,000 holiday wreaths laid at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery. The wreaths will be removed on Jan. 26, 2019, from 9 a.m. to noon. [Read more.](#)

### **JFT Recovery And Veterans Support Services Opening Women's Veterans Home:**

JFT Recovery and Veterans Support Services is opening a women's veterans home in Susquehanna Township (Dauphin County). Ally Murr served in the U.S. Army. She is the center's veterans coordinator and is spearheading the project. [Read more.](#)

### **PA Commission For Women Looking To Honor Female Veterans:**

As part of its annual Women's History Month celebration in March, the Pennsylvania Commission for Women is looking for female veterans to be honored, and the deadline is closing in. Megan Healey, executive director of the Commission for Women, says female veterans make many sacrifices to serve and deserve to be honored. [Read more.](#)

### **Veterans Affairs – Blue Coats Helping Homeless Vets:**

There are thousands of homeless people in Ohio and Pennsylvania and it is estimated that one in 10 are veterans. The Youngstown Blue Coats seek out the homeless in Ohio and Pennsylvania. The charity makes sure the homeless know there are services to help get them off the street. They also distribute coats and survival gear, and put a special emphasis on making sure homeless veterans get access to help. [Read more.](#)

## Across the Nation

## **Bringing Rural Veterans And Agritherapy Together Through VA FARMS:**

Through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, Congress directed the Veterans Health Administration to create a pilot program to provide veterans with agricultural vocation training and behavioral health care from licensed providers. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Farming and Recovery Mental Health Services pilot program was developed in response. [Read more.](#)

## **Glaucoma – Why Veterans Need Regular Eye Exams:**

What is glaucoma? Glaucoma is a disease that damages an eye's optic nerve. It usually happens when fluid builds up in the front part of an eye. That extra fluid increases the pressure in an eye, damaging the optic nerve. Some forms of glaucoma can damage the optic nerve, even when the eye pressure is in the normal range during the eye exam. [Read more.](#)

## **Most States Offer Veterans Benefits – Here's How To Find Them:**

Did you know that most states offer special services and benefits to veterans? While veterans have access to benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other federal agencies, veterans may not be aware of the benefits states have made available to them locally. These state services and benefits are in addition to those from federal agencies. [Read more.](#)

## **Navy Vet's New Mission – Building A Vet-Friendly School:**

Miles Davis is the new president of Linfield College in McMinnville, OR. He once scanned oceans for hidden submarines during the Cold War. These days, he's settling into campus, getting to know his students and learning the perks of living in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Davis is not only the first black president of the college but he is also the first president who is also a veteran. [Read more.](#)

## **Resources For Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, And Federal Employees During Government Shutdown:**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes that many veterans are impacted by the partial federal government shutdown and are experiencing significant personal and financial stress right now. VA is actively working to provide you with much needed support and relief. [Read more.](#)

## **U.S. Department Of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Talks Veterans Experience, Welcome Kit:**

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie addressed the Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference last week via live stream from Washington, D.C. In his speech, Wilkie outlined his priorities and the role the Veterans Experience Office (VEO) plays in the department's improvement. [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)*

### **Connecting Veterans To Long-Term Careers:**

The U.S. Department of Labor launched a program to recognize employers that are committed not only to hiring veterans, but retaining them in meaningful, family-sustaining careers. [Read more.](#)

### **CRST Trucking Is Hiring:**

CRST Trucking is looking for veterans to hire as mechanics. CRST Trucking, a vet owned company, is looking for 91 series mechanics. If interested, please contact Dennis Hogan at 319-731-3877 or 319-440-5995.

### **Governor Wolf Announces Creation Of Nearly 80 New Jobs Through Expansion Of CorrChoice LLC:**

Governor Tom Wolf announced that CorrChoice LLC, a producer of industrial corrugated paper packaging products, will expand in central Pennsylvania. The project, supported through state funding, is expected to create 79 jobs in the Dauphin and Lebanon counties area. [Read more.](#)

### **Superior Home Care Is Hiring:**

Superior Home Care values compassion and commitment to excellent care. The same ethics developed during military service and training are also important qualities for the Superior Home Care teams. Superior Home Care covers Allegheny, Washington, Westmoreland, Fayette, and Greene counties. Go to PA CareerLink [Website](#) and search "Superior Home Care" to apply. Be sure to self-identify as a veteran.

### **Susquehanna Valley EMS Starts Paid Training Program For EMTs:**

Susquehanna Valley EMS (Lancaster County) announced that applications are open for its first "EMT Recruit Academy." Participants will be paid to attend classes and work shifts on a rigorous six-week schedule. After completing the course, they'll be eligible to become a certified EMT and work for Susquehanna Valley EMS. [Read more.](#)

### **The Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center Is Hiring:**

The Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center (Luzerne County) is currently recruiting. To search positions, enter Wilkes Barre, PA in the Location Field and click on the Search button. Additionally, preference is given to applications and resumes received from eligible veterans. Honorably discharged veterans may apply directly to Human Resources Management Service to be considered for future vacancies. Interested parties may visit the USAJOBS [Website](#).

### **Travis Manion Foundation Is Hiring:**

Travis Manion Foundation is hiring a qualified service member or veteran as a Northeast Regional Manager and Northeast Region Program Intern, to add to the Philadelphia based Northeast Regional Team. [Website.](#)

### **Wells Fargo Careers For Military Veterans:**

Wells Fargo is committed to hiring and retaining military veterans, veterans with disabilities, and active military personnel. The company supports our uniformed services team members who return to work after active duty with a variety of jobs, confidential resources, educational information, and career guidance. [Read more.](#)

## **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.)*

### **Winter Fly Fishing Program:**

- Saturdays, Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 and March 2 and 9, 2019, 1-3:15 p.m.
- South Hills School of Business & Technology, 480 Waupelani Dr., State College, PA (Centre County)
- Point of contact: email Dan Kerstetter at [paflyfisher777@gmail.com](mailto:paflyfisher777@gmail.com) or Jim Lanning at [jlanningvsp@gmail.com](mailto:jlanningvsp@gmail.com) to register.
- This program will include an introduction to all the aspects of fly fishing. All equipment and supplies will be provided for the beginners. Classes are open to all who are interested.
- [Facebook event.](#)

### **Cambria County Veteran Services Town Hall Meeting:**

- Jan. 17, 2019, 1-2:30 p.m.
- Johnstown Senior Center, 550 Main St., Johnstown, PA (Cambria County)
- Informing veterans, and their families, about the services Cambria County Veterans Services provided, possible benefits they are entitled to, and answering your questions.
- [Facebook event.](#)

### **Community Townhall Event Live Q&A With The Hon. Robert Wilkie Secretary Of Veteran Affairs:**

- Jan. 17, 2019, 1-3:30 p.m.
- Register and view the free webcast [Here!](#)
- Part of the veteran community? Join the second virtual town hall event with the VA!

### **Cambria County Veteran Services Town Hall Meeting:**

- Jan. 22, 2019, 2-4 p.m.
- Adams Township Volunteer Fire Hall, 849 Locust Street, St. Michael, PA (Cambria County)
- Informing our veterans, and their families, about the services Cambria County Veterans Services provides, possible benefits they are entitled to, and answering your questions.
- [Facebook event.](#)

### **Veterans Breakfast And Pinning Ceremony:**

- Jan. 26, 2019, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- Aldersgate Church, 1480 Jerusalem Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA (Cumberland County)
- R.S.V.P. to [eddirector@armyheritage.org](mailto:eddirector@armyheritage.org) or call Jeff Hawks at 717-258-1102
- FREE breakfast! The program includes a Department of Defense issued Vietnam War, 50th Anniversary Commemorative pinning ceremony to any United States veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975.

### **Second Chance Expo:**

- Feb. 2, 2019, noon-4 p.m.
- Boys & Girls Club, 1227 Berryhill St., Harrisburg, PA (Dauphin County)
- Register for this event at [PA House Website](#) or call the office at 717-772-3570.
- Career fair noon-4 p.m.; expungement seminar 1 p.m.; credit repair, 1:30 p.m.; driver license restoration seminar, 2 p.m.

### **12th Annual Homeless Veteran Stand Down:**

- Feb. 15-17, 2019
- Harrisburg Military Post, 1400 Calder St., Harrisburg, PA (Dauphin County). Monetary donations and gift cards can be mailed to Dave Gyger, 111 Cameron Ave., Hummelstown, PA (Dauphin County) 17036
- Point of contact: call Dave Gyger at 717-991-1473 or email [djc57@verizon.net](mailto:djc57@verizon.net)
- Open to all homeless and at risk veterans. Services being provided by Veterans of Foreign Wars and YWCA, include: employment assistance; claims filing; transportation advocacy; legal services; hygiene items and showers; haircuts; clothing; medical exams; prevention services; housing services; benefits enrollment, and more.

### **Soldier's Heart Retreat:**

- April 11-14, 2019
- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 616 N. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA (Allegheny County)
- For questions, please contact Jennifer Casale at [jcasale@soldiersheart.net](mailto:jcasale@soldiersheart.net) or 518-274-0501
- Soldier's Heart retreats provide veterans, service members, family members, professionals, and caring community members a place to learn and practice ways of providing a successful homecoming from war and military service. As found in Dr. Edward Tick's book, "War and the Soul."
- Application deadline Feb. 1, 2019. Click to [Apply.](#)

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