DMVA News

DMVA Reminds Veterans Not To Pay For Assistance To Apply For Their Benefits:
The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) reminds veterans to meet with a professional to ensure they are receiving the benefits they have earned through their service and sacrifice. "All veterans should occasionally check with an accredited veteran service officer to see if changes in a veteran’s circumstances or changes to benefit policies may have modified the programs they are eligible to receive," said Joel Mutschler, director, Bureau of Veterans Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration, and Outreach. [Website]

PA National Guard's Field Grade Officer Forum Held At DMVA Headquarters – Offers Professional Development:
"What's the point of having this great personal network you’re always talking about, if you don’t use it?" The answer to this provocative yet hypothetical question is: not much. [Website]

DD 214/215 Program:
The DD 214 program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The DD 214 form provides a concise record of a period of service with the Armed Forces at the time of the member’s separation, discharge or change in military status. In addition, the form is an authoritative source of information for both governmental agencies and the Armed Forces for purposes of employment, benefit and reenlistment data. For more information about how to receive a copy of your certificate of release or discharge, please visit [Website]

Around the State

Help Make Sure Veterans In Pennsylvania Are Counted In The 2020 Census:
Starting in March 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will mail letters to every household in the United States inviting all to respond to the census survey. Every household should receive a letter requesting that they complete a census survey online, by mail, or phone by Census Day on April 1, 2020. [Website]
Butler County Community College Course Focuses On Preventing Military Veterans’ Suicide:
Among Peter Albert’s patients at the Butler VA Health Care System (Butler County) are those who tell him that they’ve known more fellow fighters who’ve killed themselves than were killed in combat. Nearly 6,140 U.S. military veterans nationwide died by suicide in 2017, marking the 10th consecutive year in which the number exceeded 6,000, according to the VA’s 2019 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. [Website](#).

American Legion Post 15 Celebrates Grand Opening:
Joe Stickell American Legion Post 15 has officially risen from the ashes. A grand-opening celebration was held recently for the new headquarters at 63 E. Main St. in Waynesboro (Franklin County), with several veterans, legislators and community members coming together in recognition of the journey. [Website](#).

Carbon County Based Veterans Group Receives $35K Grant:
A statewide, Lehighton-based nonprofit that assists combat veterans on their return home recently received a $35,000 grant. Pennsylvania Outdoor Veterans secured the funds from the Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation, a nonpartisan charity whose endowments benefit mainly Pennsylvania organizations. [Website](#).

Toy Company Now Creating Green Plastic Army Women Set Features Working Dogs And Handlers, Rosie The Riveter:
BMC Toys in Scranton, PA (Lackawanna County) published an update on its website, which included in-process sculptures of a military working dog and handler, a nurse, and Rosie the Riveter perched atop a “We Can Do It!” pedestal. The new toys come in sets of 36 and are expected to be released this October. [Website](#).

Pennsylvania Teen Will Escort WWII Veterans To Iwo Jima:
Young Marine, Sgt. Maj. Madison Myers, 16, of Greensburg, Pennsylvania is a member of the Westmoreland County Young Marines. Myers is the top Young Marine in Division 1 which includes eight states: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, and part of West Virginia. Over the course of the year, she will travel to other units throughout the division to lead, motivate, and serve as a role model. [Website](#).

Erie VAMC Implementing New Entry Measures:
The Erie VA Medical Center (Erie County) will be implementing a screening process for all veterans, volunteers and visitors entering their grounds and VA community clinics. The purpose of the screening is early identification of COVID-19 risk factors and appropriate medical treatment. [Website](#).

Lebanon VA Medical Center Adopting New Entry Measures To Protect Veterans And Staff:
Lebanon VA Medical Center (Lebanon County) has began screening measures for anyone entering its main campus or community clinics to protect veterans, staff, volunteers and visitors against the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The medical center will restrict access to the grounds. Website.

Wolf Administration Urges Pennsylvanian's To Take Daily Coronavirus Prevention Actions:
Governor Tom Wolf urges Pennsylvanians to take daily coronavirus prevention actions: wash your hands; cover coughs/sneezes with tissue or elbow; don’t touch eyes/nose/mouth; clean surfaces often; avoid close contact with sick people; and stay home when sick. Get the latest information at Website.

Across the Nation

VA Announces Safeguards To Protect Nursing home and spinal cord injury patients:
While the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) still considers COVID-19 to be a low threat to the general American public, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced new safeguards aimed at limiting COVID-19 exposure risk for two of its most susceptible patient populations: nursing home residents and spinal-cord injury patients. VA’s 134 nursing homes are home to more than 41,000 veterans across the country annually. The residents are predominantly older, and many have multiple complex health conditions, making them particularly vulnerable to infection. Website.

Notice Of Class Certification For Veterans Of 1966 Nuclear Clean-Up At Palomares, Spain:
If you participated in U.S. military operations at Palomares, Spain, after the January 17, 1966, B-52 crash that released plutonium dust and have a potentially radiation-related disease, you may be part of a class action lawsuit. This case is about whether the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has failed to use sound scientific evidence to decide claims for service-connected disability compensation for medical conditions potentially caused by exposure to ionizing radiation at Palomares, Spain. Website.

VA Suspends GI Bill Certifications For Five Universities Over Deceptive Enrollment Practices:
The Department of Veterans Affairs is suspending educational benefits for new students enrolling in programs at five universities, citing “erroneous, deceptive, or misleading” enrollment practices. In an email to congressional offices, the VA identified University of Phoenix, Colorado Technical University, American InterContinental University, Bellevue University and Temple University as in violation of U.S. law which prohibits illegal “advertising, sales, or enrollment practices.” Website.

Veterans Unemployment Up Again:
The veterans unemployment rate rose to its highest level in a year last month and posted above the national unemployment rate for the first time since 2016, according to
figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The 3.6 percent jobless rate among veterans in February remains well below the historically high levels of the mid-2010s, where that monthly figure was routinely above 7 percent and approached 10 percent on several occasions. Website.

Rosalind P. Walter, Original 'Roscie The Riveter,' Dies At 95:
At the age of 19, she spent a year as a night-shift welder at the Sikorsky aircraft plant at Bridgeport, Connecticut, inspiring the 1943 song "Rosie the Riveter". The song went on to define a generation of women during World War II who entered the workforce to help keep the war effort afloat as men fought on the front lines. Website.

The American Legion At 101:
The American Legion, which turns 101 years old this month, is the nation’s largest veterans service organization. Growing in membership this year after passage of the 2019 LEGION Act, the American Legion remains committed to its core pillars of service and support for veterans, defense, youth, and Americanism. American Legion Magazine Editor, Jeff Stoffer, recently spoke with VA Under Secretary for Benefits, Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D., about VBA's pursuit of its #BestYearEver. Website.

2020 HIRE Vets Medallion Award Application Now Open:
The 2020 HIRE Vets Medallion Award application is now open to employers until April 30, 2020. The HIRE Vets Medallion Award is a Labor Department recognition for employers that commit to hiring and retaining veterans into meaningful, family-sustaining careers. The HIRE Vets Medallion Award is the only federal veterans’ employment award that recognizes and honors employers’ commitment to Veteran hiring, retention, and professional development—and it carries the full weight of the federal government. Website.

National Guard Bureau To Use Machine Learning To Foster Healthier Troops:
The National Guard Bureau is preparing to roll out SPRINGboard, a digital tool that’ll give leaders insight into the health risk factors impacting the communities their troops call home so they can tailor prevention efforts accordingly. The dashboard is part of NGB’s Suicide Prevention and Readiness Initiative for the National Guard, or SPRING. Website.

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

Job Fair - Construction Employee:
- March 11, 2020, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 304 Wood St., Pittsburgh, PA (Allegheny County)
- Call 866-317-5627
- Register online at Website.

**Police Officer Testing:**
- Cumberland Valley High School, 6746 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA (Cumberland County)
- The Cumberland County Police Testing Consortium allows applicants to take one written and one physical test and be considered for multiple police agencies in Cumberland County, PA.
- For more information visit Website.

**Pepsico And Veterans:**
- Numerous positions, salaries and locations throughout Pennsylvania. To apply for available positions visit Website.

**“Pay For Success” Helps Veterans With PTSD Find And Keep Meaningful Jobs:**
The transition to civilian life can be difficult for many veterans. It’s even more challenging for those with PTSD. More than 60 percent of veterans entering specialized PTSD programs are unemployed, which can negatively impact financial security, community reintegration and quality of life. But thanks to an innovative “pay-for-success” program, 100 veterans with PTSD have now found meaningful employment in New York City, Boston and Central Western Massachusetts. The renewed status and sense of identity that comes with being employed and making meaningful contributions at home and in society can reduce the stigma of disability—and lower symptoms of PTSD. Website.

**Gov. Wolf Highlights Efforts to Improve Workforce Development In Pennsylvania, Cuts Ribbon On Northeast Philadelphia Workforce Development Center:**
Governor Tom Wolf helped cut the ribbon on Toben Center, Northeast Philadelphia’s first comprehensive workforce development center. He was joined by Sen. Christine Tartaglione, Rep. Jared Solomon and representatives from Toben Center tenants PhillyWorks, Harcum College, and Northeast Learning Center to celebrate this new piece of workforce development, which builds upon programs already established by the Wolf Administration and proposed as part of Gov. Wolf’s 2020-21 Budget. Website.

**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.*
Second Harvest Sets Food Share:
- March 11, 2020, 3:45 p.m.
- Warren County VA Clinic, 3 Farm Colony Dr., Ste. B, Warren, PA (Warren County)
- The Second Harvest of Northwest Pennsylvania is hosting a Military Share Distribution. The Military Share is a Produce Express Program of Second Harvest, and is designed to include fresh, nutritious foods for families with at least one member who has served or is serving in the armed forces or National Guard. They provide fresh fruits and vegetables, such as carrots, potatoes, and onions, along with other groceries and frozen foods.
- [Website](#).

Original Mini-Stand Down:
- March 14, 2020, and 2nd Saturday's of every month, 10 a.m.-Noon
- City Park, lower parking lot, Reading, PA (Berks County)
- Point of contact: call 610-372-8267 or email: info@TeamVCOP.org or [Website](#).
- Rain or shine, clothing, a hot meal and more free stuff

Wills For Heroes:
- March 14, 2020, 10 a.m.
- Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #5 Headquarters, 11630 Caroline Road, Philadelphia, PA (Philadelphia County)
- Email Kathy Mandelbaum at Kathy.mandelbaum@temple.edu
- Free and easy services that provides wills, living wills, health care and financial powers of attorney to first responders and military veteran and their spouses/partners.
- Appointments must be scheduled online by [Register](#). Password: Temple
- For more information visit [Website](#).

Monthly Meeting At Soldiers And Sailors Memorial Hall And Museum:
- March 14, 2020, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum, 4141 Fifth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA (Allegheny County)
- Email Kathryn Shelly at kshelly_1567@hotmail.com
- Women from all branches of the military service, active, retired, veteran are invited to attend.
- For more information on WACVA (Army Women United) - Pittsburgh Keystone Chapter 120, visit [Facebook](#).

Transgender Therapy - Training Session:
- March 17, 2020, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Choose either morning, 9 a.m.-Noon, or afternoon, 1-4 p.m.
- Marywood University, Theresa Maxis Conference Center - IHM Center, 2300 Adams
Ave., Scranton, PA (Lackawanna County)
- Hosted by CHOP's Gender & Sexuality Development providers Dr. Linda Hawkins and Samantha King, this 3-hour long training is open to PA mental health providers looking to learn best practices for supporting transgender and gender non-conforming clients.
- For more information visit [Website](#).

**VCI Rural Veteran Outreach Event:**
- March 17, 2020, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 573 Valley St., Rockhill, PA (Huntingdon County)
- Call Veteran Community Initiatives (VCI) at 814-255-0355
- Come out and speak with our Veteran Service Officers with any benefit and claim questions.

**Save The Date - Pitt Day In Harrisburg:**
- March 17, 2020, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex, Main Capitol Rotunda, North 3rd St., Harrisburg, PA (Dauphin County)
- Call Charlene Kumar at 412-624-7706 or [ckumar@pitt.edu](mailto:ckumar@pitt.edu)
- Join us to connect with University of Pittsburgh and meet with students, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends of Pittsburgh legislators and staff are invited to a dessert reception in the Main Capitol Rotunda.

**Vietnam War Veterans Dinner:**
- March 18, 2020, 5 p.m.
- Lewistown Armory, 28 Armory Ln., Lewistown, PA (Mifflin County)
- Call Juanita Cook at (570) 954-2283 or email at [juanita.cook@va.gov](mailto:juanita.cook@va.gov)
- You and your Spouse/Significant Other are invited to join us for dinner and a ceremony recognizing you for your service in Vietnam.

**Boots to Business Reboot:**
- March 19, 2020, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Penn State Altoona, Altoona Launchbox, 1313 12th Avenue Suite 103, Altoona, PA (Blair County)
- Call Jonathan Bennett at 412-395-6560, ext. 107 or email [jonathan.bennett@sba.gov](mailto:jonathan.bennett@sba.gov)
- Boots to Business Reboot is an entrepreneurial education and training program offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The course provides an overview of entrepreneurship and applicable business ownership fundamentals. Veterans of all eras, active duty service members (including National Guard and Reserve) and spouses are eligible to participate. Lunch will be provided to all participants.
- Register at [Website](#).

**Veteran Town Hall:**
- March 19, 2020, 1-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.
- Hampden Township Municipal Building, 230 S Sporting Hill Rd, Mechanicsburg, PA (Cumberland County)
- Point of contact: Danny Osten at 717-240-6178
All veterans, their families, and community members are invited to attend the Town Hall. The panel discussion will include members from the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the vet center, Lebanon VAMC, Humana, Cumberland County veterans affairs, Just For Today addiction services, disabled veterans trout derby, and the PA DMVA Mobile Veteran Outreach Van to assist with claims.

**Warrior Strong Open House:**
- March 22, 2020, 1-3 p.m.
- Steamtown CrossFit, 895 Providence Rd. Scranton, PA (Lackawanna County)
- Call Tom Tice at 862-324-6322 or email at warriorstrongusa@gmail.com
- Come meet the warrior strong team and learn about our program and how you can get involved.
- [Website](#)

**Army Staff Sergeant (Ret) Travis Mills — Never Give Up. Never Quit.:**
- March 23, 2020, 7 p.m.
- Villanova University, Connelly Center, 800 E. Lancaster Ave, Villanova, PA (Montgomery County)
- Contact email: studentinvolvement@villanova.edu
- A story about taking on life’s challenges, breaking physical barriers and defying odds. No registration required.

**VA Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits Claims – A Guide For Advocates:**
- March 24-25, 2020, 2-3:30 p.m.
- Webinar, register online at [Register](#)
- While many veterans advocates focus on helping their veterans obtain service-connected disability compensation, veterans may also be eligible for other important VA benefits. Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) benefits are among those VA benefits that can be life-changing for veterans.

**Female Veterans Day And Advocate Recognition Ceremony:**
- March 25, 2020, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- University Drive Atrium, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, University Drive, Pittsburgh, PA (Allegheny County)
- Call 412-360-6261
- Join us to celebrate Pennsylvania's Female Veterans Day and recognize and honor four advocates for western Pennsylvania women veterans.
- Visit Facebook event [Website](#)

**Women In The Military - Special Contributions And Unique Challenges:**
- March 26, 2020, 11 a.m.-Noon
- Webinar registration [Website](#)
- Women have made and continue to make special contributions to the military, however they also face unique challenges as service members. This webinar discusses those contributions as well as some of the challenges they face.
Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition Day:
- March 27, 2020, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 1st Summit Arena at Cambria County War Memorial Lobby, 326 Napoleon St #1780, Johnstown, PA (Cambria County)
- Call VCI office at 814-255-0355
- Join us for morning pastries, coffee, and a light lunch. Displaying memorabilia, equipment, vehicles, pictures from the Vietnam era.

VFW Post 1989 Recognizes Indiana County Vietnam Veterans:
- March 27, 2020, 4 p.m.
- VFW Post 1989, 824 Indian Springs Rd, Indiana, PA (Indiana County)
- Call David K. Grey Jr. at 724-910-1550
- VFW Post 1989, a USA Vietnam War Commemorative Partner, is honoring Indiana County’s Vietnam Veterans by hosting a recognition and lapel pinning ceremony.

Free Dental Services For Veterans, Active Military And Dependents:
- April 4, 2020
- Pennsylvania College of Technology, 1 College Ave., Williamsport, PA (Lycoming County)
- Appointments are required. Call 570-320-8007 to schedule.
- Pennsylvania College of Technology dental hygiene students and volunteer dental professionals will provide free dental hygiene services to veterans, members of the armed services, and their dependents. Available services include exams, cleanings, X-rays, fluoride treatments and oral health education, as well as sealants for children, when appropriate. Services will be preventive and will not include fillings or extractions.
- Website.

Veterans Stories To Be Featured Weekly In March At Tarentum Museum:
- Thursdays in March, 1 p.m.
- Allegheny-Kiski Valley Heritage Museum in Tarentum, 224 E. 7th Ave., Tarentum, PA (Allegheny County)
- The stories of veterans from the Alle-Kiski Valley area can be heard in their own words Thursdays in March. Each week, segments from Arnold (Westmoreland County) native John Bailey’s documentary, “Duty, Courage, Honor — Southwestern Pennsylvania Goes to War,” will be shown beginning at 1 p.m. at the museum. The program lasts about an hour.
- Website.

REBOOT Combat Recovery Training:
- Every Thursday through April 23, 2020, 6 p.m., for 11 weeks
- James A. Danner VFW Post 537, 1095 Pines Rd., Etters, PA (York County)
- Point of Contact: Charlie at yost.ch@gmail.com or 724-630-4956
- FREE training, FREE supper, FREE childcare. Spouses urged to register with service member.
- Created to aid service members and their families working through their post-traumatic stress. The training focuses on healing the spiritual and moral wounds of war, whether a
recent conflict or from 50 years ago. The training is a unique blend of clinical insight and faith-based support in the form of weekly classes that include topic-based instruction, class discussions, homework, group exercises and a family-style meal.
- Register.