

Merli Messenger

Volume 5 Issue 6
2018

401 Penn Avenue Scranton, PA (570)961-4300

SEPTEMBER: NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. It is an important time to move the conversation forward about suicide.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs each day there are around 20 veterans who commit suicide. The Veterans Affairs Department reports that veterans' suicides account for 18% of the suicide deaths in the country, while they only make up 8.5% of the adult population.

Suicide is a major concern with veterans and active duty military members. According to a research report in a Mayo Clinic Journal, Army suicide rates increased 80% from 2004 to 2008.

It is important to identify and find those who are suffering in silence.

Those who suspect someone they know may be considering suicide should insist they seek immediate professional assistance. It is not a sign of weakness for veterans or active duty members to seek help.

An important way to observe Suicide Prevention Month is to spread the message of awareness and reach out to those in need. Help people understand the severity of this cause.

Five no nonsense tips to Help someone in Crisis:

Ask direct questions – even though it is hard, ask a person directly if they are thinking about suicide.

Listen to their answers – let them know that you care deeply about what they say.

Do a safety check – remove anything that could be harmful.

Don't keep this secret – inform the person you will come up with a plan involving a professional, utilizing the many services and resources available.

Ensure they seek professional help.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

September:
National Suicide
Prevention Month
Page 1

Welcome Home
Page 2

Family Support
Offered
Page 2

Military Facts
Page 4

Let's Play Chess
Page 4

Happy Birthday
Page 4

Generous Giving
Page 5/6

Taps
Page 6



Want to keep updated on DMVA?
Follow us on these
social media platforms!



Search "Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs" on any of those sites to connect with us and see the latest news, pictures and videos from DMVA.

Newsletter info:

DeLores Davis,
Volunteer Resource
Coordinator
(570) 961-4380
delodavis@pa.gov

Volunteer Staff:
Lorraine Lenge



WELCOME HOME

GINO J. MERLI'S NEW RESIDENTS

Mark Mahoney
8-02

Charles Watson
8-06

William Gray
8-08

Joan Hronmchak
8-09

Raymond DePrimo
8-15

Harry Bloom, Jr
8-15

Robert Alper, Sr.
8-16

William Davies
8-16



Joseph Bartush
8-23

Chester Epting
8-23

Alan Kogo
8-27

Richard Malikowski
8-29

FAMILY SUPPORT OFFERED

At the Gino J. Merli Veterans Center a Family Council Support Group is being offered, not only for the residents, but also to all family members and friends of the residents.

The purpose of the Family Council is to make

available a support for one another.

For more information on this matter or if you are interested in joining the group, kindly contact Karen Caruso the Coordinator of the Family Council Support Group at 570-961-4324.

MILITARY FACTS:

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Many Americans frequently pause to remember the sacrifices and service of those who were prisoners of war as well as those who are missing in action. The U.S. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday of September each year. In 2018 the date will be September 21st.

On this date, Veteran rallies take place. In addition, the U.S. Flag and the POW/MIA flags are flown on this day along with joint prayers for those missing in action. Remembrance ceremonies to observe the day are held in places such as the Pentagon, war memorials and museums.



The POW/MIA Flag was created for the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia and officially recognized by Congress “as a symbol of our Nation’s concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for...”

The original design for the flag was created by Newt Heisley in 1972. The flag features a white disk bearing in black silhouette a man’s bust, a watch tower with a guard on patrol, a strand of barbed wire. White letter’s “POW and MIA” with a white five-pointed star in between are typed above the disk. Below is a black and white wreath above the motto “You Are Not Forgotten”.

On March 9, 1989 a POW/MIA Flag that had been flown over the White House on the 1988 National POW/MIA Recognition Day was installed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. This flag is the only flag ever displayed in the Rotunda, and the only flag other than the Flag of the United States to have flown over the White House.

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Russell Osenbach	9-02
Robert Whitesell	9-02
John Calpin	9-03
Harold Lang	9-07
John Ahearn	9-18
Leon Simoncavage	9-18
Lawrence Warner	9-24
Robert Cuscela	9-20
Francis Tyson	9-23
Gerald Hunt	9-25
Ethel Phillips	9-26
John Uhrin	9-26
Robert Alper, Sr.	9-27
David Simens	9-27
Andrew Powanda	9-29
John Tuloshetski	9-29

AND MANY MORE...

LET'S PLAY CHESS

The history of chess can be traced back nearly 1500 years. The earliest predecessor of the game probably originated in India.

The game then spread to Persia. When the Arabs conquered Persia, chess was taken up by the Muslim world and subsequently spread to Southern Europe. In Europe chess evolved into roughly its current form in the 15th century.

In a 2012 survey "chess players now make up one of the largest communities in the world: 605 million adults play chess regularly".



Come join the Chess Community at the Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center every Tuesday and Thursday at 1:30 in the 2 South Lounge. For the beginners and intermediate – lessons will be provided.

We're
Searching for
Volunteers

GENEROUS GIVINGS: IN KIND

Don Salvia donated plants.

Robert Saslo donated
walkers.

American Legion Post 154
donated military books.

Mark Golosky donated
patriotic center pieces.

Andrea Walsh donated lap
blankets.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE:

Contact:

DeLores Davis,
Volunteer Resource
Coordinator
(570) 961-4380
delodavis@pa.gov

A resident wish list is
available for personal
comfort items.

MONETARY

Rocco Valvano Fund of
Scranton Area Foundation
donated \$1137.00.

Donald Gavalis donated
\$50.00 for dine in.

Senior Crimestoppers
donated \$100.00.

Benevolent and Protective
Order of Elks donated
\$650.00 for dine ins.

Family Council Support
Group donated \$35.00.

Richard and Beverly
Conrad donated \$25.00.

Tobyhanna Depot Golf
Tournament donated
\$200.00.

United Way of
Lackawanna and Wayne
Counties donated \$26.84.

American Legion
Auxiliary Dept of Pa
donated \$100.00 for fall
decorations and \$200.00
for clothing.

OES Chapter 189 donated
\$50.00 for bingo.

The Volunteers donated
\$85.00 for bingo.

Friends of the Forgotten
donated \$50.00.

**Thank you for your generosity and support.
You are deeply appreciated by the veterans, families, and staff at the Center.
These gifts will enhance the quality of life of our residents.**

GENEROUS GIVINGS CONTINUE:

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Mary Kemp donated \$50.00 in memory of Ethel Cole.

Verda Poust donated \$100.00 in memory of Walter Stout.

Glen Kerbs made a donation in memory of William Kerbs.

PNC Bank Plains Office donated \$100.00 in memory of Clarence Prisco.

Anita and Michael Klembara donated \$30.00 in memory of Joseph Gubernot.

Richard and Catherine Hartfelder donated \$25.00 in memory of Ted Hartfelder.

Evan and Rose Mary Reese donated \$100.00 in memory of Joseph Gubernot.

TAPS

Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center extends its deepest sympathy to the loved ones of the following veterans who have recently passed away.

Their presence will be greatly missed.

Joseph Shifton 8-04-18

Michael Kurutz 8-06-18

Robin Linsell 8-10-18

Charles Watson 8-15-18

Rose Stachacz 8-17-18

Joseph Donath 8-17-18

Helen Ann Lipinski 8-22-18

William Gray 8-25-18

Ronald Yodis 8-27-18

