

FLASH UPDATE

<http://agentorangezone.blogspot.com/>

Thursday, May 14, 2015

[Why does the Tulip Represent People with Parkinson's Disease?](#)



<http://parkinsonsaction.org/>

Did you know that the tulip became the international symbol of Parkinson's disease in 1980 when a horticulturalist named a tulip after Dr. James Parkinson? To honor all those who have Parkinson's disease or who are affected by it, the Parkinson's Action Network (PAN) is pleased to announce the launch of the [2015 Tulip Tribute Garden](#). The [Tulip Tribute Garden](#) celebrates, honors, and remembers those affected by Parkinson's disease while supporting PAN's vital policy initiatives. [Would you consider making a donation of \\$25, \\$55, \\$70, \\$100, \\$250, \\$400, or more?](#) Your gift will immediately help PAN work toward better treatments and a cure for Parkinson's disease.

For gifts of [\\$25 or more](#), you will be invited to plant a virtual tulip and leave a message on the [Tribute Wall](#). At the [\\$70 level](#), you or someone you designate will be sent a lovely chocolate truffle confection. For donations of [\\$400 or more](#), a beautiful bouquet of tulips will be sent to you or a loved one.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

[DONATE NOW](#)

For More Info:

<http://pantulips.kintera.org/faf/donorReg/donorPledge.asp?supId=0&ievent=1137526>

[Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand to push bill extending VA benefits to Vietnam-era Navy veterans exposed to Agent Orange](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/gillibrand-push-aid-navy-vets-exposed-agent-orange-article-1.2219931)

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WASHINGTON - Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand will use a Veteran's Affairs Committee hearing Wednesday to push a bill to extend Veterans Affairs Department benefits to "blue water" Vietnam-era veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

It's a bid to right what many of those Navy veterans see as their unfair exclusion from a 1991 law that requires the VA to provide presumptive disability coverage to Vietnam veterans potentially exposed to Agent Orange, a toxic herbicide the U.S. used to remove jungle foliage if they develop health conditions tied to the chemical.

Though some of the Navy vets faced exposure, they cannot receive the benefits unless they set foot on the ground in Vietnam or can show "on factual basis" that they were exposed. That leaves tens of thousands of veterans like Bobby Condon uncovered. Condon, 68, who grew up in Flatbush, enlisted in the Navy at just 17, serving from 1965 to 1968. He was nicknamed "Brooklyn" by fellow sailors.

Condon, who had previously overcome throat cancer, was diagnosed in 2008 with chronic lymphocytic leukemia, an incurable form of cancer linked to Agent Orange. He believes he was exposed to Agent Orange while working on planes that had flown through areas where the chemical was dropped while he worked on the flight deck of the USS Intrepid, an aircraft carrier.

"You're telling me that this plane is flying through this stuff, we're changing the planes, we're pushing them around, then we're going down and getting a hamburger, and we're not exposed?" he said. He noted that he used to bite his nails. Condon says he has a "50-50 chance of dying" from the condition, but can't get coverage from the VA. "They're just trying to wear me out," he said. "They won't wear me out."

Gillibrand's bill, cosponsored by Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.), would allow veterans who served up to approximately 12 miles offshore to get VA health and disability benefits for illnesses that are tied to Agent Orange exposure. The junior New York senator has pushed the measure since 2009, but failed to win Senate passage amid concerns about the cost the coverage would impose on the VA.

Condon said he will watch what senators do with the bill, which is set to receive a committee vote in coming weeks.

"These guys are sitting in their plush chairs," he said. "They are either gonna vote no or yes on this."