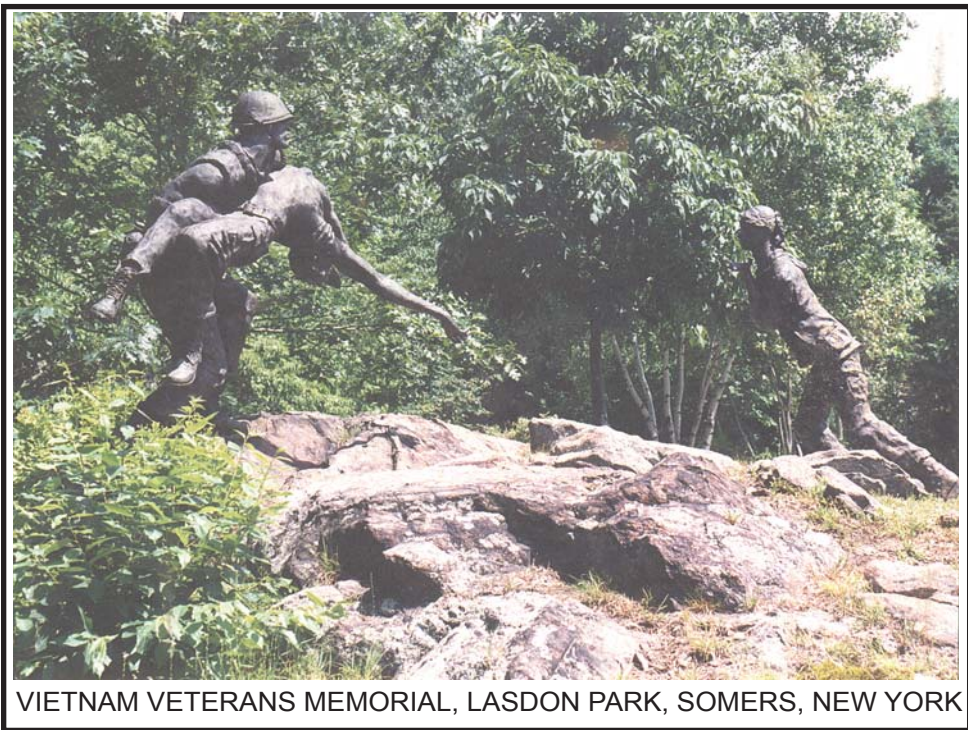


# *Vietnam Veterans of America*



*Westchester  
County  
Chapter #49*

If box is checked  
your dues are due now.

All the POW's are not home yet!  
Do you know?  
Do you care?



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Vietnam Veterans of America  
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# VVA CHAPTER 49 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

## Chapter Officers:

President: Barney Puleo ..... 682-4949  
Vice President: Al Zawiski ..... 428-9352  
Secretary: Jim LaManna ..... 793-6077  
Treasurer: Al Singerman ..... 930-7433

## Board of Directors: (5)

Bob Kennedy ..... 669-5411  
Terry Keogh ..... 428-9845  
Bob Miller ..... 391-8723  
Carl DiLiberto ..... 462-0782  
Matt Coffey ..... 682-4949

## State Council Delegates: (6)

Dan Griffin  
Jim LaManna  
Barney Puleo  
Al Singerman  
Al Zawiski  
Terry Keogh

## Nominating Chairman:

Dan Griffin

## Veterans Offices:

Yonkers: Dan Morea ..... 377-6700  
Carmel: Brennen Mahoney .... 845-808-1620

Vet Center: 300 Hamilton Ave, White Plains, NY 10601

Roger Paulmeno ..... 682-6250

White Plains Clinic ..... 421-1951  
23 S. Broadway, White Plains, NY 10601

FDR Montrose Hospital ..... 737-4400

## Westchester County Veterans Service Agency:

Dan Griffin ..... 995-2146 / 2145

## Committees:

Membership Phil Wanderman ..... 963-3034  
Chaplain Al Zawiski ..... 428-9352  
Comm. Affairs Dan Griffin ..... 682-4949  
POW / MIA Dan Griffin ..... 682-4949  
Member Products Jim LaManna ..... 793-6077  
Color Guard Rich Palazzo ..... 845-297-1513  
Scholarship Bob Miller ..... 391-8723

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY VETERANS MUSEUM

### HOURS:

11:00 - 3:30

914-864-7068

WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY  
AND HOLIDAYS

### Chapter 49

Telephone / Fax Number  
(914) 682-4949

### Website:

[www.vietnamvets49.org](http://www.vietnamvets49.org)

### E-Mail:

mailto: Chapter49@aol.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month  
at  
Armonk Post 1097  
35 Bedford Rd.  
Armonk, NY 10504

This newsletter is a publication of Chapter 49, however the opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, and as such, they do not necessarily represent those of Chapter 49. All views are welcome for publication. Submit items of interest, including poems, short stories, photographs, etc., to the Editors at the Chapter address or call for other arrangements. Materials submitted will not be returned unless otherwise requested.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Westchester County thanked Vietnam era veterans for their service by issuing a Vietnam Veteran's Medal in a ceremony held at Kensico Dam on October 5<sup>th</sup>. If you did not receive one call the Chapter office or call my office at the Westchester County Veterans Service Agency @ 914-995-2145. You can come to my office in White Plains to receive yours or we will mail it to you.**

**The reason that we were not able to inform most of you about the medal ceremony is that I do not have your E mail address! We now have 300 members, but I only have 89 email addresses, so PLEASE email or call me with your address.**

**Elsewhere in this newsletter are flyers about our upcoming Wreaths across America ceremony and our Candle light Vigil.**

**Take care of yourself and each other**

**Dan Griffin**

---

**Welcome to our newest members**

**William Murray member from White Plains  
Peter Brown member from Armonk  
Edward Erickson life member from West Nyack  
Joseph Ketchum from White Plains  
William Neithardt life member from Port Chester  
Louis Saharelli from Cortlandt Manor  
Dennis Antonlicci from Jefferson Valley  
Gerald Cassone from Port Chester  
Daniel Morea from Beacon  
Arthur Donohue from Larchmont  
Thomas Battersby life member from New Rochelle  
Walter Ronaghan life member from Harrison  
John Impelizino from White Plains  
Dr. Edward Sottile life member from Somers**

**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**Fact Sheet**Office of Public Affairs  
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
www.va.gov**VA Secretary Grants Relief for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injuries**

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald has granted equitable relief to more than 24,000 Veterans following a national review of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) disability compensation examinations conducted between 2007 and 2015.

Equitable relief is a unique legal remedy that allows the Secretary to correct an injustice to a claimant, where VA is not otherwise authorized to do so within the scope of the law.

Since 2007, medicine around TBI has been a rapidly evolving science. VA instituted a policy requiring one of four specialists – a psychiatrist, physiatrist, neurosurgeon, or neurologist – to complete initial TBI exams when VA does not already have a diagnosis. VA selected these specialists because they have the most experience with the symptoms and effects of TBI.

As more research became available, VA issued a series of guidance documents that created confusion regarding the policy. The nationwide review revealed that more than 24,000 Veterans did not receive an exam by one of the specifically designated specialists. Of the Veterans identified, more than 13,000 are already service connected for TBI at a 10 percent disability evaluation or higher.

**Corrective Actions Taken by VA**

To minimize burden and ensure no financial harm to affected Veterans, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs granted equitable relief to all of the more than 24,000 identified Veterans on May 3, 2016. The relief authorizes VA to offer new TBI exams, conducted by an appropriate specialist, to all identified Veterans.

- Further, this equitable relief:
  - Enables VA to take action on any new examinations without requiring Veterans to submit new claims.
  - Allows VA to award an effective date as early as the date of original TBI claim and provide any retroactive benefits due.
- VA will contact affected Veterans to notify them of the opportunity to receive new examinations and have their claims reprocessed. Affected Veterans will have one year in which to request new examinations.

VA understands the importance of an accurate exam to support Veterans' disability claims. VA is committed to improving the medical exam experience and has identified it as one of the Department's 12 MyVA Breakthrough Priorities.





## **Candle Light Vigil**

**Lasdon Park**

**December 18th**

**4:30 PM**

**This is our Christmas for the men and women who did not  
come home from Vietnam.**



**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

**LASDON PARK**

**DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> 12:00 PM Sharp**

**We will present wreaths at our Vietnam Memorial and at each one**

**Of the statues on the “Trail of Honor”**

**Also at each of the plaques at the “walk of Honor “at Kensico Dam**



## [VA provides service dog benefits to Veterans with mental health disorders](#)

08/18/2016 01:01 PM EDT

### **VA provides service dog benefits to Veterans with mental health disorders**

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it is piloting a protocol to implement veterinary health benefits for mobility service dogs approved for Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with mental health disorders.

“We take our responsibility for the care and safety of Veterans very seriously,” said VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. David J. Shulkin. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to providing appropriate, safe and effective, compassionate care to all Veterans. Implementing the veterinary health benefit for mobility service dogs approved for Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with mental health disorders may prove to be significantly beneficial for some Veterans. The Service Dog Benefits Pilot will evaluate this premise.”

VA has been providing veterinary benefits to Veterans diagnosed as having visual, hearing or substantial mobility impairments and whose rehabilitation and restorative care is clinically determined to be optimized through the assistance of a guide dog or service dog. With this pilot, this benefit is being provided to Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with a mental health disorder for whom the service dog has been identified as the optimal way for the Veteran to manage the mobility impairment and live independently.

Service dogs are distinguished from pets and comfort animals because they are specially trained to perform tasks or work for a specific individual with a disability who cannot perform the task or accomplish the work independently. To be eligible for the veterinary health benefit, the service dog must be trained by an organization accredited by Assistance Dogs International in accordance with VA regulations.

Currently, 652 Veterans with approved guide or service dogs receive the veterinary service benefit. This Pilot is anticipated to provide the veterinary service benefit to up to 100 additional Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with a mental health disorder.

The VA veterinary service benefit includes comprehensive wellness and sick care (annual visits for preventive care, maintenance care, immunizations, dental cleanings, screenings, etc.), urgent/emergent care, prescription medications, and care for illnesses or disorders when treatment enables the dog to perform its duties in service to the Veteran.



H.R. 1769 and S.901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act bills are placed on the House and Senate Calendar for floor votes

Vietnam Veterans of America

June 1, 2016

**Legislative Update: H.R. 1769 and S.901 the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015**

H.R. 1769, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, introduced by Congressmen Benishek (MI-1) and Honda (CA-17) with 201 cosponsors was reported out of the House Veterans Affairs Committee on May 24 and placed on the House Union Calendar No. 460 for a floor vote. H.R. 1769 bill legislative language has also been added to Title III Matters Relating to Toxic Exposure [in H.R. 5286](#) the VA Construction and Lease Authorization, Health, and Benefits Enhancement Act introduced by Chairman Miller House Veterans Affairs Chairman on May 19, 2016.

S.901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 introduced in the Senate by Senators Jerry Moran (KS) and Richard Blumenthal (CT), with 48 cosponsors, bill legislative language has been included in Title II Subtitle I Research and Toxic Exposure in S.2921, the Veterans First Act introduced by Senators Johnny Isakson (GA), Chairman and Richard Blumenthal (CT), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. On May 12, 2016, the Veterans First Act was vote out of the committee and placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders Calendar No. 467 for floor vote. [S.2921 Veterans First Act \(Reported in Senate - RS\) \[S.2921.RS\]\[PDF\]](#) S.2921 has 42 Senate cosponsors.

*Vietnam Veterans of America is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans' service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. In keeping with its founding principle, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another," VVA aggressively advocates for all veterans*



## NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 meeting Board 6:00 Dinner 6:30 meeting		5
6	7	8	9	10 Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza 20% to Chapter 49	11 Veterans Day 2:00 Ceremony Lasdon Park	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Pizza Party FDR Stress Unit 5:30 PM	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 meeting 6:00 Board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	2	3
4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8	9	10
11 PTSD Unit Christmas 1:00 PM Building 15	12	13	14	15	16	17 WreathsAcross America 12:00 Lasdon Park
18 Candle Light Vigil Dusk Lasdon Park	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve

## JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day	2	3	4	5 meeting 6:00 Board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Pizza Party FDR Stress Unit 5:30 PM	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 meeting 6:00 Board 6:30 dinner 7:30 meeting	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Pizza Party FDR Stress Unit 5:30 PM				



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**Capt. USNR- Ret.**

AUSN Regional President - Mid-Atlantic Region

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