



Charlotte County Veterans Newsletter



Editor: David W. Donohew, Charlotte County Veteran Services

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2nd copy to all!	



Sandi Campbell, Administrative Assistant II of Charlotte County Veteran Services poses with Sen Bob Dole and WWII Veteran, James Morrow at the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. The South West Honor Flight took 30 veterans and 30 guardians to their memorial in Washington D.C. on October 8th, 2011. Great job, Honor Flight!!



**Subject: Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony
7 December, 2011 70th Anniversary!**

The Marine Corps League Charlotte County Detachment 756 would like to invite any veterans organization that would like to send a color guard to participate in this years Remembrance Ceremony for Pearl Harbor Day at Fisherman's Village. The event will start promptly at 1700 hours (5pm). We ask that participants arrive no later than 1630 hours (4:30 pm).

Battleship row photo by Japan.



6th Annual Homeless Veteran Stand Down, 30 October 2010



The Liberty Elementary School Veteran Presentation will be held on November 8th, 2011 at 9:00 am w/ a second show at 10:00 am. This is a great event and I encourage all to attend. I received a hand written invitation from a student named Taylor and I plan to attend this function. Hope to see you all there.

David Donohew

Liberty Elementary School
370 Atwater Street · Port Charlotte, FL 33954
(941) 255-7515

If you would like an article placed in this NEWS letter, you can email me at: David.Donohew@charlottefl.com or drop your article off at my office.
(941) 764-5579

Contact Charlotte County Veteran Services at (941) 764-5579!

The Blinded Veterans Association, Florida Regional Group Southwest District is hosting their annual luncheon on November 5th at the Palms Restaurant, located at the Sabal Springs Golf and Racket Club, 17540 Old Tamiami Trail, North Ft. Myers. The meeting will begin with a period of socializing at 11:30 AM, followed by lunch at noon.

FRG President Darryl Goldsmith will preside at the informational meeting following lunch. A National Legislative up-date will be presented. Representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs will be on hand to provide information of interest to Blinded Veterans and their families. FRG activities for the coming months will be described. Information about the Florida Regional Group Auxiliary will be presented, including the FRG Auxiliary Scholarship Program.

For more information, contact Bill Stockslager at (941) 276-1561 or email him at:

wstockslager@comcast.net

Veterans in Crisis - Suicide is Preventable!

As more and more men and women in uniform return from Iraq and Afghanistan, there is an increasing need for mental health care. The VA is reaching out to Veterans in crisis and their families to raise awareness about suicide prevention resources, such as the Veterans Crisis Line at **1-800-273-TALK** (8255). The PSA encourages Veterans in crisis to call the crisis hotline number at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to reach a trained VA mental health professional, 24/7. An online Veterans Chat program, which provides the ability to communicate anonymously online in real-time with a trained VA mental health professional, can be accessed through the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's web page](#). Suicide is 100% preventable, and it is everyone's responsibility

Liz Barton



Special Forces Motorcycle Club, Inc.

November 6, 2011 MARCH OF DIMES BIKERS FOR BABIES I have been asked to provide Security and Parking Lot management for this year's Bikers for Babies Ride. I need volunteers to work at Fort Myers Harley Davidson the day of the event. Staging is 10:00 AM and we should be finished by 1 PM. We will have a planning meeting the week before the event for layout and assignments.

Wednesday, January 25, 2012.. Escort Ride for the American Veterans' Traveling Tribute.

Staging will be at the weight station on southbound I-75 just south of Exit 161 (Punta Gorda) in the back parking lot. Staging is at 2:30 PM with KSU at 3:00 PM. The ride will be down I-75, west on Daniels Pwky, and left of Six Mile ending at the Lee County Sports Complex. If you have any questions contact me. I am the Ride Captain for this event.

Thanks, Bo McCormick, 239-994-7584

National Secretary/Treasurer/Special Forces Motorcycle Club, Inc.

WAVES National Organization

The WAVES National Organization is open to all women veterans. We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Heron Creek Golf and Country Club, Northport. The next meeting will be October 19th at 11:00 a.m. POC is President Kathy Radka at (941) 429-4968. We welcome all women veterans. Lunch is available from the Country Club menu. We hope to see you there.

Christina Pellegrino



I am very proud to announce that portions of the Helping Homeless Heroes Act, a bipartisan bill I introduced with Rep. Ted Deutch (FL-19), became law this month. These provisions will help strengthen federal efforts to end homelessness among America's veterans.

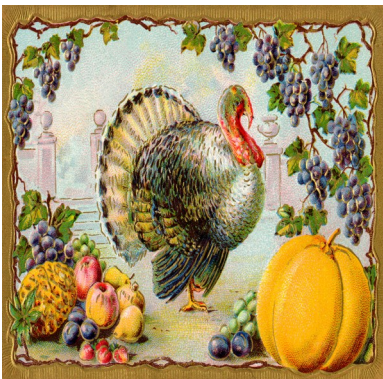
While we've made dramatic improvements over the last decade to reduce veteran homelessness, we still have significant work ahead of us to ensure that no one who served is left out in the cold while making the transition to civilian life. This legislation builds on successful support programs to help fulfill our debt to those who put their lives on the line in defense of our country.

Over the last decade, significant progress has been made reducing the number of homeless servicemen and women, from more than 300,000 in 2003 to less than 150,000 in 2009. The Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act of 2011, which the President has signed into law, includes language from our bill to bolster federal programs responsible for much of this success.

Included in the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act of 2011 are provisions that:

- Renew critical programs like the Department of Labor-Veterans' Employment and Training Services Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, the only nationwide employment assistance program dedicated to homeless veterans;
- Reauthorize the repayment of VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD), a transitional housing program that is the foundation of VA and community partnerships;
- Reauthorize the VA Special Needs grants for the following homeless veteran populations: women, including women who have care of minor dependents; frail elderly; terminally ill; or chronically mentally ill; and
- Reauthorize financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing. VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program is designed to promote housing stability for very low-income veterans and their families. According to estimates from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, about 600,000 veterans can be classified as extreme low-income, and are therefore at great risk of becoming homeless.

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Local Contact for Congressman Thomas Rooney

Office of Congressman Thomas Rooney
16th District of Florida
226 Taylor St, Ste # 200
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: (941) 575-9101 Fax: (941) 575-9103

Terry Keene, Veterans Employment

I work for the State of Florida and all services are free of charge. I work exclusively with veterans and concentrate on those with disabilities or barriers to employment, but will work with any veteran. I usually meet with them and determine needs that may include help with resume preparation, job search, interviewing skills or planning a strategy to meet career goals. Sometimes veterans have barriers to employment, requiring me to refer them to other services. Many qualify for funding from federal and state resources to retrain into new careers and know nothing about it. We have an orientation class every Monday at 9:30 a.m. to introduce and explain those services. In addition, we offer workshops on resume` writing, interviewing skills and the federal bonding program for those that were previously incarcerated. If you are a veteran serious about finding work, I would like to be a resource in your network. Give me a call to set up an appointment and please register on our state-wide job search site, www.employflorida.com, fill out your profile information and post a resume`. Finally, thank you for your service to our country and happy hunting.

Terry Keene

St. Louis fire of 1973, National Personnel Records Center

NOTE: The 1973 Fire at the National Personnel Records Center damaged or destroyed 16-18 million Army and Air Force records that documented the service history of former military personnel discharged from 1912-1964. Although the information in many of these primary source records was either badly damaged or completely destroyed, often alternate record sources can be used to reconstruct the service of the veterans impacted by the fire. Sometimes we are able to reconstruct the service promptly using alternate records that are in our holdings, but other times we must request information from other external agencies for use in records reconstruction. In some instances, therefore, requests that involve reconstruction efforts may take several weeks to complete.

National Personnel Records Center

National Hospice Month Reminds to Treasure Time

November was designated National Hospice and Palliative Care Month in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter, and Tidewell Hospice, along with more than 5,000 other hospices nationwide, honors the tradition annually.

Tidewell's message this year is focused on how hospice helps patients and families treasure time. That time could be spent in conversations and smiles shared with loved ones, attaining life goals, reminiscing and chronicling stories of a life lived well—treasures, all.

Serving Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties, Tidewell's care teams bring comfort and compassion to patients where they live – long term care communities, hospitals, private homes or any of Tidewell's seven hospice houses. Last year, Tidewell served 8,373 patients and families by honoring their life goals as part of a customized care plan.

Tidewell's physicians, nurses, social workers, grief specialists, certified nurse assistants, chaplains, therapists and volunteers work as a team to foster quality of life experiences for every patient. With pain and symptoms managed, patients can enjoy quality of life endeavors – socialization and pet therapy visits, writing legacies, creating expressive arts projects, listening to favorite music and reconnecting with loved ones – near and far.

For more information, call Tidewell at 1-855-TIDEWELL or visit www.tidewell.org.

Tidewell | YOUR LOCAL,
NOT-FOR-PROFIT
HOSPICE
SINCE 1980



Charlotte Crossing Apartments is the essence of home. Our impeccably designed stone veneer community is one of Florida's most desirable areas. Our amazing community features state of the art amenities including granite counter tops, tile flooring, sparkling swimming pool, outdoor recreation area and fitness center. Our ideal location is minutes from I-75 and close to downtown Punta Gorda Historical District, Fisherman's Village, Peace River Wild Life Center and Ponce DeLeon Park for your shopping and entertainment. Please call for an appointment today.

- 1 Bedroom/ 1 Bathroom \$485.00
- 2 Bedrooms/ 2 Bathrooms \$584.00

Pets: Cats and Dogs



Photo: Charlotte County Veteran Services Officer, David Donohew, poses with Charlotte County Veteran Edward Schupenhauer at the 553rd Reconnaissance Wing 2011 Reunion Banquet in Orlando Florida on 13 October 2011. David was the Guest Speaker at the banquet . Approximately 110 members of the 553rd Reconnaissance Wing , Korat Royal Thai Air Force base “1967-1971” attended the reunion. 29 States were represented from Maine to Florida, Texas to Washington State.

History of the 553rd Reconnaissance Wing :

Established in 1967 at Korat RTAFB as an electronic warfare squadron to detect vehicles along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Indo-china. If enemy vehicles could be detected then stopped, then a major quantity of enemy supplies into South Vietnam would be halted.



The "electronic fence" concept envisioned using Navy sonobouys delivered along the Ho Chi Minh Trail by air, with special receivers in the 553d Reconnaissance Wing EC-121 aircraft to pick up the signals. The EC-121 would, when in range, automatically relay the signals picked up to the Infiltration Center at Nakhon Phanom RTAFB. Several target areas along the Ho Chi Minh Trail were outside of the range of the relay equipment; during out of range flights the signals were processed manually by the crew on board the EC-121R, then radioed via High Frequency Single Side Band radio directly to Seventh Air Force HQ in Saigon, South Vietnam.

Seventh Annual Veterans' Stand Down

Charlotte County Veteran Services is preparing for the Seventh Annual “Stand Down” for homeless veterans. The Stand Down will be held at the Family Services Center, located at 21450 Gibraltar Drive in Port Charlotte on Sat., Oct. 29, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Stand Down is a military term that refers to a brief period of time for a soldier to leave an active combat area, to rest and regain strength before returning to battle. The Stand Down seeks to increase the community’s awareness of the plight of the homeless American Veterans, while bringing a variety of social service providers together to meet with, inform and assist the veterans in regaining a more productive, satisfying lifestyle.

I would like to take the time to thank EVERYONE who has donated your time, money and items that have already made this event a success. David Donohew

A “special” thank you goes out to Congressman Tom Rooney and State Representative Paige Kreegel for their quick response to a request for a letter of support for Charlotte County’s Veteran Transportation & Community Living Initiative Grant (VTCLI).

Thank you for your support in this matter. David Donohew

Veteran's Week Highlights! (November 2011)

- What:** Homeless Veterans' Stand Down
Where: Family Service Center, 21450 Gibraltar Avenue, Port Charlotte
When: **Saturday, October 29, 2011 Time:** 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- What:** Veterans' Appreciation Celebration Parade
Where: Downtown Punta Gorda
When: **Saturday, November 5, 2011 Time:** 10:00 am
- What:** El Jobean Veterans' Awareness and Remembrance Service
Where: El Jobean Park, 2300 El Jobean Rd., Port Charlotte
When: **Saturday, November 5, 2011 Time:** 10:00 am
- What:** Purple Heart Dedication and Commemorative Service
Where: Memorial Site N.E. corner of US41 and Cochran Blvd
When: **Sunday, November 6, 2011 Time:** 2:00 pm
- What:** A Salute to Veterans
Where: South Port Square, 23023 Westchester Blvd., Port Charlotte
When: **Tuesday, November 8, 2011 Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- What:** Marine Corps Birthday Ball
Where: Kingsway Country Club
When: **Thursday, November 10, 2011 Time:** 5:00 pm
- What:** Charlotte County Veterans' Day Ceremony
Where: Laishley Park, Punta Gorda (Nesbit Street and E. Retta Esplanade)
When: **Friday, November 11, 2011 Time:** 11:00 am
- What:** Post 5690 VFW Veteran Recognition
Where: Charlotte County North Regional Park Memorial Site
When: **Friday, November 11, 2011 Time:** 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- What:** Tidewell Honors presents A Salute to Veterans
Where: Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans' Home,
21281 Grayton Terrace, Port Charlotte
When: **Friday, November 11, 2011 Time:** 12:00 – 3:00 pm
- What:** War Tales
Where: Military Heritage Museum at Fisherman's Village,
1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Unit 48, Punta Gorda
When: **Friday, November 11, 2011 Time:** 3:00 – 6:00 pm
- What:** Military Appreciation Monday at the Golden Corral
Where: Golden Corral, 451 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda.
When: **Monday, November 14, 2011 Time:** 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- What:** Veteran's Holiday Remembrance Ceremony
Where: Gulf Pines Memorial Park, 2401 Englewood Road, Englewood
When: **Saturday, November 19, 2011 Time:** 11:00 am

