Department of Pennsylvania December 2011 News Bulletin

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From all of us to all of you…The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Pennsylvania, wishes everyone…

"Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to all"

From: MOPH, CH.107 Commander & Department Judge Advocate, Karl Spidel

Hi Folks, I hope you and your families had a very Merry Christmas and are getting ready for the New Year. If you can please pass this on to all of your USMC friends and family. Marines affected may be due compensation. Don't let them miss out on benefits they earned.

Thanks and Take care and stay safe. Happy New Year.

Karl D Spidel
MOPH Pa. Dept. Judge Advocate
Commander of Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
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please pass to all USMC on your mailing lists

Lejeuene Resident Receives Disability Week of December 26, 2011

A former Camp Lejeune Marine "has a medley of maladies, many of which he believes can be traced to his exposure to contaminated drinking water during the 13 years he spent on base." A letter mailed in October from the Department of Veterans Affairs has granted him 100-percent disability for colon cancer and 20 percent for bladder cancer Lawson's time at Lejeune as a connection. His cancers could have been caused by the base the drinking water supply, which was contaminated with the organic solvents and/or by being exposed to leaking gas "at a warehouse building in the Hadnot Point Industrial Area.

" For more information on the drinking water at Camp Lejeune, visit the Marine Corps'
Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water webpage.
http://www.military.com/veterans-report/lejeuene-resident-receives-disability-

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Subject: VA Housing and Urban Development

From: Colleen Washinger
Executive Secretary
The American Legion, Dept. of PA
717-730-9100 ext. 22
717-975-2836 fax

VA and Housing and Urban Development recently released a national report that shows Veteran homelessness fell nearly 12 percent between January 2010 and January 2011. The 12-percent decline keeps VA on track to meet the goal of ending Veteran homelessness in 2015. “This new report is good news for the tens of thousands of Veterans we have helped find a home. Our progress in the fight against homelessness has been significant, but our work is not complete until no Veteran has to sleep on the street,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “We have been successful in achieving this milestone due to strong leadership from the President and hard work by countless community organizations and our federal, state, and local partners who are committed to helping Veterans and their families get back on their feet.” According to the 2011 supplement to the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) released, 67,495 Veterans were homeless in the United States on a single night in January 2011 – a significant reduction from last year’s single night count of 76,329.

For more information on Veterans homeless issues, visit
www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp<http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp

Jobs available at DMVA, http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/document/897307/dmva_openings_htm

Brian Natali
Chief, Division Veterans Services and Programs
Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
717-861-9418

Subject: DVA Launches Spouse Telephone Support Program

From: LITTLE4J@aol.com
Sent: 11/29/2011
Subject: DVA Launches Spouse Telephone Support Program

VA is implementing a telephone support program to help spouses of returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans after a pilot telephone support program showed significant reduction in stress for the spouses. “Returning to civilian life after living in constant combat readiness can be a shocking transition, and it is the immediate family, the spouses and children, who bear that brunt of that transition with those who served,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “The more support we can provide to the family, the better the outcome will be for our Veterans.” The spouse telephone support program, which is part of VA’s Caregiver Support Program, builds spouses’ ability to cope with the challenges that reintegration to civilian society can bring, helps them serve as a pillar of support for returning Veterans, and eases the transition for families after deployments. Spouses in the pilot program reported decreased symptoms of depression and anxiety, with an increase in social support. Local caregiver support coordinators are available to assist Veterans and their caregivers in understanding and applying for VA’s many caregiver benefits. VA also has a Web page, www.caregiver.va.gov, with general information on spouse telephone support and other caregiver support programs available.

VETERANS GROUPS BRACE FOR DISABILITY CLAIMS HEARING, By Sam Favate

Veterans groups preparing for court hearing that could have a major impact on how disability appeals are handled.
The Ninth Circuit agreed last week to rehear an earlier decision that placed the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Board of Veterans Appeals under federal court supervision, the CPR Institute reports. That decision, issued in May and now set aside, was critical of the VA for failing to handle veterans’ disability claims in a timely manner, and allowed a federal judge to order changes to VA procedures and timetables, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.
The en banc rehearing was sought by the Justice Department, which argued that Congress wrote the laws concerning veterans’ health care and intended “to prevent the courts from second-guessing the VA’s performance.”
The rehearing is on the fast track and is scheduled for the week of Dec. 12, according to the nonprofit advocacy firm representing the plaintiff veterans groups, CPR Institute noted. Ron Elsberry, the managing attorney at Disability Rights Advocates, told CPR that the unusual speed with which the court is acting shows recognition “that veterans are in dire circumstances.”

Elsberry added: “We are confident that the en banc panel will reaffirm the Court’s prior ruling that the VA’s unconscionable delays and bureaucratic dysfunction in providing proper care to veterans violates veterans’ constitutional rights to due process of law.”
The veterans groups submitted a 2008 report which estimated that 300,000 veterans suffer from PTSD or severe depression, most of them having served in Iraq or Afghanistan over the last decade, according to the Los Angeles Times.
In the May ruling, the court panel noted it takes the VA an average of four years to provide mental health benefits owed veterans, and can take weeks for a suicidal vet to get a first appointment, according to the AP. CPR points out that the panel opinion noted that an average of 18 veterans commit suicide each day, and between October 2007 and April 2008, at least 1,467 veterans died while their appeals were pending.

Major National Survey of Military Families Underway

Blue Star Families launches its 2012Military Family Lifestyle Survey

Blue Star Families — Support. Connect. Empower. By Military Families For Military Families.

Contact:
Blue Star Families
Stephanie Himel-Nelson
stephanie@bluestarfam.org, 703-472-6292

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 1, 2011

Washington, D.C.— Blue Star Families announced the launch of its annual survey of military families, service members, and veterans. The survey will run through the end of November, with results expected to be released in early May. The annual survey of military family members is designed to reveal the truth of what it's like to maintain home, family, career, and healthy relationships despite the necessary absence of a loved one.
The **2010 Military Lifestyle Survey** demonstrated that military families are experiencing high levels of stress, but are coping. Of note, they identified the current high operational tempo, the effect of deployments on their children, children's education, spousal employment, and finances as areas of particular concern. While military families felt slightly more support from their civilian counterparts than the previous year, a staggering 92% felt that the general public does not understand or appreciate their challenges as modern day military families.
More than a dozen military family and veteran support organizations are partnering with Blue Star Families on the survey, including the American Red Cross, the Armed Services YMCA, the Association of the United States Army, Be The Change, Inc., the Military Child Education Coalition,

the Military Officers Association of America, Military.com, Military Spouse Magazine, Military Spouse Corporate Career Network, the National Military Family Association, Operation Homefront, the Reserve Officers Association, Student Veterans of America, the USO, Veterans Innovation Center, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"Our goal this year is to increase the number of families we reach," said Blue Star Families Director of Research and Policy, Vivian Greentree. "We hope to expand on our findings from 2010 and have added more sections on caretaking, EFMP issues, financial literacy, and suicide prevention awareness. We've also added questions to the sections on spouse employment, civic engagement, and social media use among military families. We are excited for our families to see that their feedback from the 2010 survey guided our development of this year's survey instrument. We want their voices to be heard."

About the BSF Military Family Lifestyle Surveys

Blue Star Families' research examines stress levels and factors, communication methods, feelings on community support, and much more. With this information, Blue Star Families develops meaningful, effective programs for military family members and makes suggestions for responsible allocation of funding.

Past survey results have been cited by the White House, the First Lady and Congressional members, as well as presented to the Department of Defense and the first-ever joint session of the Senate and House Military Family Caucuses.

The 2012 survey is underwritten by Blue Shield of California Foundation, Care.com, Facebook, and The Leichtag Foundation.

Visit http://bluestarfam.org/survey to take the survey or to read the results from the 2010 survey.

About Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families (http://bluestarfam.org) is a national, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect and empower military families. In addition to morale and empowerment programs, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life and works to make military life more sustainable. Membership includes military spouses, children and parents as well as service members, veterans and civilians.

Media requests may be directed to:

Stephanie Himel-Nelson at stephanie@bluestarfam.org or 703-472-6292

Our mailing address is:
Blue Star Families
P.O. Box 322
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MOPH Chapter 1983 Update December 29, 2011.pdf

Received: December 29, 2011
From: MOPH, CH.1983 Adjutant, Robert Keck
Posted: December 29, 2011
Subject: Chapter 1983's Participation/Future Medical Screenings
Note: Also posted on the Webmasters Corner Page.

Dear Patriots,

For your information, our Chapter, TRI-County, Chapter 1983 participates with other organizations in an Annual Homeless Veterans Stand-Down. This effort is coordinated by the Greater Harrisburg YWCA. The goal is to serve up to 65 homeless veterans February 3, 4, & 5, 2012.

The volunteers will start bringing in Vets on Friday afternoon and its is expected to have some services available for the Veterans which include, haircuts, employment, VSO/Benefits, Disability Issues, late on Friday.

The VA has been requested to come on Saturday, February 4th to provide medical screenings.

We also serve the Lebanon VAMC.

Our Chapter meets the Second Thursday of the Month at 7 P.M. at the VFW at 232 E. Main Street, Palmyra, Pennsylvania 17078.

Please send any correspondence to:

Purple Heart Chapter 1983
c/o Robert L. Keck, Adjutant
172 Oxford Road
Annville, Pennsylvania 17003-8654

Yours in Patriotism,

Robert Keck, Adjutant

Thievery Scheme

Locking Your Car - Do It From The Door Control.

How To Lock Your Car And Why.

I locked my car. As I walked away I heard my car door unlock. I went back and locked my car again three times. Each time, as soon as I started to walk away, I would hear it unlock again. Naturally alarmed, I looked around and there were two guys sitting in a car in the fire lane next to the store. They were obviously watching me intently, and there was no doubt they were somehow involved in this very weird situation. I quickly chucked the errand I was on, jumped in my car and sped away. I went straight to the police station, told them what had happened, and found out I was part of a new, and very successful, scheme being used to gain entry into cars. Two weeks later, my friend's son had a similar happening.

While traveling, my friend's son stopped at a roadside rest to use the bathroom. When he came out to his car less than 4-5 minutes later, someone had gotten into his car and stolen his cell phone, laptop computer, GPS navigator, briefcase, you name it. He called the police and since there were no signs of his car being broken into, the police told him he had been a victim of the latest robbery tactic -- there is a device that robbers are using now to clone your security code when you lock your doors on your car using your key-chain locking device.

They sit a distance away and watch for their next victim. They know you are going inside of the store, restaurant, or bathroom and that they now have a few minutes to steal and run. The police officer said to manually lock your car door-by hitting the lock button inside the car, that way if there is someone sitting in a parking lot watching for their next victim, it will not be you. When you hit the lock button on your car upon exiting, it does not send the security code, but if you walk away and use the door lock on your key chain, it sends the code through the airwaves where it can be instantly stolen.

This is very real. Be wisely aware of what you just read and please pass this note on. Look how many times we all lock our doors with our remote just to be sure we remembered to lock them and bingo, someone has our code...and whatever was in our car.

Please share with everyone you know.

Note: The receiving device is known as a "Spectrum Analyzer" and the signal can be recorded and played back to unlock the car door.

True!

Military Order of the Purple Heart
Department of Pennsylvania
For Combat Wounded Veterans, "In War there is no substitute for Victory".

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