



## LAMOPH February 2010

### *Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities*



## PTSD Vets Win Retirement Deal

Week of February 01, 2010

More than 4300 Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans who were diagnosed in service as suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, have won an agreement with the Department of Defense to upgrade those ratings retroactively to 50 percent. The higher rating will represent an important win for this group of veterans mentally scarred by war. It will mean, from date of discharge, eligibility for disability retirement and access to TRICARE the military's triple health insurance option, for the veterans, spouses and dependent children.

## MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, “SERVICE FOUNDATION”

**The Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, Inc.**

[phsf@purpleheartfoundation.org](mailto:phsf@purpleheartfoundation.org)

# PETS for VETS” - Program For Returning Service Members with PTSD



Week of February 01, 2010

A program in California is helping veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with post traumatic stress disorder by pairing them with homeless animals. Pets for Vets rescues animals from the Los Angeles animal shelter and trains them as service dogs or companion animals for veterans. Every veteran who wants a dog and can care for it is eligible. "Pets for Vets" is expanding to other cities.

For more information, visit the [Pets for Vets website](#)

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## Louis Spinelli, 1st Vice President of the Purple Heart Service Foundation Board of Directors Honored

### New Brunswick war veteran honored at dinner

August 17, 2009

**SOUTH RIVER** - Highly decorated war veteran Richard Louis Spinelli of New Brunswick was honored recently during a dinner at the Imperial [Music](#) Center.

About 125 people attended the event, hosted by the Sgt. John Basilone of the Italian-American Club.

Spinelli is the first vice president of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, a nonprofit organization that raises [funds](#) for service, welfare and rehabilitation for wounded, disabled and handicapped veterans, widows, orphans and survivors. The organization also is a liaison to the government on matters involving disabled veterans.

Spinelli has been involved with the organization since 1987. He has served in various capacities, including two terms as state commander during the 1990s. He also served on the organization's national executive committee.

Spinelli was appointed by former Gov. Christine Todd Whitman to the Advisory Council for the Veteran's Cemetery and was later appointed to the Advisory Council for the New [Jersey](#) World War II Memorial in Trenton by Gov. Jon S. Corzine.

Spinelli, who enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 17, served as an infantry soldier with the 7th Division, 31st Infantry Regiment, during the Korean War. In October 1951, he was injured and returned to the United States.

He was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Korean Service Medal with Star Service, National Defense Medal, [United Nations](#) Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

Spinelli was awarded a plaque for his good work and service to the Purple Heart Service Foundation.

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# Have You Heard? *How to give a pet a pill*

## Cats

Pick up cat and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.

Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.

Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.

Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm, holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.

Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.

Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.

Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.

Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.

Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink 1 beer to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.

Retrieve cat from neighbor's shed. Get another pill. Open another beer. Place cat in cupboard, and close door on to neck, to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.

Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Drink beer. Fetch bottle of scotch. Pour shot, drink. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Apply whiskey compress to cheek to disinfect. Toss back another shot. Throw Tee shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.

Call fire department to retrieve the damn cat from across the road. Apologize to neighbor who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.

Tie the little bastard's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy-duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of filet steak. Be rough about it. Hold head vertically and pour 2 pints of water down throat to wash pill down. Consume remainder of scotch. Get spouse to drive you to the emergency room, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table. Arrange for SPCA to come collect this mutant cat from hell and call the local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

Accidentally drop pill on floor. Watch cat pounce on the pill and devour it.

## Dogs

- Wrap it in bacon.
  - Toss it in the air.
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## Nat'l Purple Heart Hall of Honor to host "Letters Home in Time of War" 2/14<sup>th</sup>

### Wartime letters home at Purple Heart Hall

New Windsor, NY. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor will host "Letters Home in Time of War" on Sunday, **February 14, 2010 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

The program will cover the entire range of wars for which Americans have been awarded the Purple Heart. Although the modern Purple Heart was not created until 1932, veterans from as far back as the Civil War applied for, and were awarded it. Staff members and friends will read letters both to and from service men and women that reflect their feelings and experiences across three centuries of American military conflict.

**Admission is free. Seating is limited and reservations are suggested.**

### VA NEEDS WOMEN VETERANS' INPUT

On Feb 8th the first meeting of the women's committee on Women Veterans Health issues will meet. This is an appointment by the President and Secretary of Veteran's Affairs. This is a chance to try and have voices heard and correct some issues that women may have with their care. Interested veterans can email Valerie Cortazzo at [uz2bface@verizon.net](mailto:uz2bface@verizon.net) before the meeting takes place.

### INTERVIEWS FROM THE 2009 WHEELCHAIR GAMES

Over 500 of our nation's heroes competed in this 29th Annual event taking place this year in Spokane, Washington. The first of these events was held in San Antonio Texas in 1988 and has now evolved into a week-long celebration that offers a multitude of competitions and entertaining special events, including the team sporting events. These Games are presented each year by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) with a VA medical facility and PVA chapter collaborating to host this exciting event. ([read more](#))

### TRAINING GRANTS UP FOR GRABS IN PA

Pennsylvania's Department of Labor & Industry put \$10 million in grants up for grabs this week for the creation of training programs that get veterans, dislocated workers and youth into the work force. ([read more](#))

## **NEW WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC OPEN AT LEBANON VA MEDICAL CENTER**

Lebanon VA Medical Center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new women veterans' health clinics and renovated primary care areas on the fifth floor of Building 17. [\(read more\)](#)

## **STUDY SHOWS DEPLOYMENTS' IMPACT ON ARMY WIVES**

Army wives whose husbands deploy seek mental health services at a higher rate than others, and the longer the deployment, the greater the impact, according to a new study. [\(read more\)](#)

# **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

## **KEEPING YOUR ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT**

### **How do I change my address?**

You can change your address by mail to Membership, 5413-B Backlick Road, Springfield VA 22151 or by e-mail to [memberships@purpleheart.org](mailto:memberships@purpleheart.org) or by telephone to Membership at 888-668-1656. In all modes, please include your membership number, full name, old address, and new address.

### **How do I replace a lost or damaged membership card?**

Send \$5.00 to Membership, 5413-B Backlick Road, Springfield VA 22151; be sure to include your full name, address, and membership number if known.