



Department of Pennsylvania November 2011 News Bulletin

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Upcoming Important Dates

November 11 – Veterans Day

2ND Week in November – Life Member Rebate Checks sent to Departments and Chapters. Monies are for Verified Life Members as of June 30TH

November 24 – Thanksgiving Day

December 7 – Pearl Harbor Day

December 22 – 1ST Day of Winter

December 25 – Christmas Day

"HAPPY THANKSGIVING"

From all of us at the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Pennsylvania

"Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence." ~ Erma Bombeck

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Update:

http://www.vvmf.tv/FeaturedContent/VVMFFeaturedVideos.aspx?VID=vvmf/111013_VVMF_TWTH_Philly.flv&Cap=vvmf/111013_VVMF_TWTH_Philly.xml

**Happy Thanksgiving:
Local hunters can share the harvest**

Email: From Rep. Mark J. Gergely, D - 35th District, Allegheny County. [WEBSITE](#)

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family. As we approach the holidays, keep in mind the variety of ways that you can – if able – give back.

Pennsylvania's rifle season begins Monday, and with the economic downturn leaving more families unable to put meat on the table, I want to let our local hunters know about a statewide program that allows you to donate any extra deer meat to the [Hunters Sharing the Harvest Program](#).

If you are fortunate to bag a deer, you can donate all or a portion of your harvest. If the entire deer is donated, the hunter is asked to make a minimum \$15 tax-deductible contribution to help cover processing. Hunters donating a portion of their deer will pay the full processing fee, and notify the processor to hold a specific amount of meat for the program.

A list of participating processors can be found [here](#).

As Chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, a bipartisan organization of state House and Senate members, I think we should all be proud that last year hunters generously donated 100,000 pounds of venison to the program.

Established in 1991, Hunters Sharing the Harvest provides more than 200,000 meals annually to food banks, churches and other social organizations feeding the needy.

Be careful in the woods and good luck getting your buck! Happy Holidays!

Pets for U.S. Vets Veterans Day 2011 Update:



Veteran's Fund

at the

Washington Area Humane Society

724-222-pets (7387)



*No adoption fees for our local

U.S. Veterans

visit our dogblog:

dogparty84.blogspot.com



L. to R. Hoppy Gene, Rubee Jaine & Harley Grant showed their puppy patriotism by attending the Veterans Day Parade in Donora, Pa., sporting their new coats from Petco. They spoke with lots of U.S. Veterans and passed out flyers about 84 Fitness Center's program at the WAHS allowing our local Veterans to adopt a dog or cat at no charge. As you can see from the excitement on their faces, they had a howlin' good time!

Email: dogparty84@aol.com

The following was received in an email concerning Employment and other Veterans Issues. There is also information on Jobs Available and Contacts for the same. Please pass it along...

Also see:

[http://www.mophdepartmentpa.org/Veterans Employment Outreach Day December 15 2011.pdf](http://www.mophdepartmentpa.org/Veterans%20Employment%20Outreach%20Day%20December%2015%202011.pdf)

[http://www.mophdepartmentpa.org/November 22 2011 Information Download.doc](http://www.mophdepartmentpa.org/November%2022%202011%20Information%20Download.doc)

[http://www.mophdepartmentpa.org/Community Services Group Career Opportunities November 21 2011.doc](http://www.mophdepartmentpa.org/Community%20Services%20Group%20Career%20Opportunities%20November%2021%202011.doc)

**Greater Philadelphia Veterans Network announces an initiative,
"TAKE A VETERAN TO WORK DAY"**

Greater Philadelphia Veterans Network (GPVN) is excited to announce a new initiative to assist transitioning service members and unemployed veterans in their search for civilian jobs and careers. One common problem many Veterans face is a lack of knowledge about civilian careers and an inability to decide what type of civilian employment they would enjoy once they get out of the service. GPVN has developed an initiative called "Take a Vet to Work Day", that would enable Veterans to visit companies in order to learn about civilian industries and make better decisions about the type of employment they should pursue. The program officially kicked off on Veteran's Day (Nov 11th). We have been getting an enormous response from local companies and veterans who want to participate.

WHEN: 11/11/11 through 12/9/11

WHERE: Southeastern PA, Southern NJ, Northern DE

The goal of this initiative is to assist transitioning service members / unemployed veterans who are struggling to define their new career objective.

Here's how it works:

- Unemployed veterans will sign up and list certain trades/skills they are looking to explore.
- Participating companies/organizations will host unemployed veterans.
Veterans will shadow assigned company mentors.

Participating companies in this initiative include:

Wawa, Main Line Health, Metals USA, Naval Supply, Cintas, Holt Logistics, Sheraton Hotel, EKM, The Hub, Patriot Building Group, The Mark Group, Drexel University Online and many more

Veterans can explore the following careers through this initiative:

EITHER ENTRY LEVEL, MID MANAGEMENT OR EXECUTIVE (VP, COO, CEO)
*Sales / Marketing / Operations / Human Resources / Finance / Maintenance / IT / Supervisor (Warehouse) /
Culinary / Medical / Law / And many more to chose from*

TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS / UNEMPLOYED VETERANS CAN REGISTER HERE:

<http://tinyurl.com/3onmexb>

COMPANIES/ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING CAN REGISTER HERE:

<http://tinyurl.com/444bxkk>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON "TAKE A VET TO WORK" GO TO OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.GPVN.ORG

RECENT GPVN EVENTS:

*Rutgers University (Camden) – Student Veterans – 10/12
“Resources and Services for Vets” (U of Penn) GPVN will be one of the panelists – 10/12
Webinar “Utilizing Social Media To Job Search” - <http://tinyurl.com/3mtcglw> - 10/14
Congressman Meehan’s Veterans Expo – GPVN will be speaking about jobs - 11/7
State Representative Warren Kampf Veteran Expo – GPVN attending – 11/17
“Networking” Training for Vets @ Coatesville VA with GPVN - 11/18*

UPCOMING GPVN EVENTS

*“Networking” Training for OEF/OIF/OND Vets @ Coatesville VA with GPVN – 12/3
“Networking” Training for West Chester University Student Veterans – 12/7
Creating a ‘Networking Strategy’ during your job search – WEBINAR WINTER 2011
How to be a Career Coach with GPVN – WEBINAR WINTER 2011
Veteran Entrepreneurship Event – EARLY 2012*

Emails from John Bircher, MOPH Facebook Update:

Military Order of the Purple Heart on FACEBOOK...

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/PurpleHeartPR/10150371068910614/>

ABC’s EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION

SEARCHING FOR DESERVING FAMILIES IN:

ATLANTA, GA | SOUTH FLORIDA | FRESNO, CA

COLUMBIA, SC | FLORENCE, SC

Interested families or those who wish to nominate another family should: e-mail a short description of their family story to – veronica@emhe.tv

Nominations/submissions must include:

1. The names and ages of each member of the household
2. A description of the major challenges within the home
3. Explanation of why this family is deserving, or a positive role model in their community
4. Photos of the family and a photo of the home
5. Don't forget to include a contact phone number

Don't Delay! Please send story submissions as soon as possible!
We are looking for amazing families with BIG personalities

VA Support Program Expanding to More Veterans, Spouses

The Department of Veterans Affairs is implementing a telephone support program to help the spouses of returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans, after a pilot telephone support program showed significant reduction in stress for 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.

Spouses participate in 12 telephone support groups over six months. The focus is on problem-solving and communication, relationships, mental health and resilience. A trained, nationwide team of VA medical center staff members, including many caregiver support coordinators, will lead the support groups.

Typical issues spouses and Veterans face after deployment include communication difficulties, the need to renegotiate family roles and responsibilities and the added stress of combat related injury. Spouses of Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have reported feeling overwhelmed, depressed, anxious and frustrated.

“Providing support to family caregivers is the right thing for VA to do,” said Dr. Robert Petzel, VA's under secretary for health. “A simple series of phone calls can do so much good. Certainly, those who fought for our nation and the spouses who allowed them to make that sacrifice deserve this support.”

The program is based on research by VA researchers Dr. Linda Nichols and Dr. Jennifer Martindale-Adams, of the Memphis VA Medical Center and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Both researchers developed and studied interventions for family members of Veterans and military

personnel. Their work with spouses of post-deployed and deployed military personnel is funded through the Defense Health Program, managed by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

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 through VA and the community.

Email from Tim Reinaman, MOPH, Dept. of PA. Finance Committeeman

Christmas is coming. Think about these.

As you open your pockets for the next natural disaster, please keep these facts in mind:

- **The American Red Cross** President and CEO Marsha J. Evans salary for the year was \$651,957 plus expenses
- **The United Way** President Brian Gallagher receives a \$375,000 base salary along with numerous expense benefits.
- **UNICEF** CEO Caryl M. Stern receives \$1,200,000 per year (100k per month) plus all expenses including a ROLLS ROYCE . Less than 5 cents of your donated dollar goes to the cause.

GO "GREEN" INSTEAD AND PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE IT WILL DO SOME GOOD:

- **The Salvation Army's Commissioner** Todd Bassett receives a small salary of only **\$13,000 per year** (plus housing) for managing this \$2 billion dollar organization. 96 percent of donated dollars go to the cause.
- **The American Legion National** Commander receives a **\$0.00 zero** salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!
- **The Veterans of Foreign Wars** National Commander receives a **\$0.00 zero salary**. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

· **The Disabled American Veterans** National Commander receives a **\$0.00 zero salary**. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

· The **Military Order of Purple Hearts** National Commander receives a **\$0.00 zero salary**. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

· **The Vietnam Veterans Association** National Commander receives a **\$0.00 zero salary**. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

Please share this with everyone you can.

VFW Intrepid Post 914 announces co-sponsoring along with the American Merchant Marine Veterans of the Mon-Valley, “The Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony December 7, 2011 in West Mifflin Pennsylvania”.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend a Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony Wednesday Dec. 7 inside the auditorium of the West Mifflin Area Senior High School. Sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 914 since 1991, the event is co-sponsored by the American Merchant Marine Veterans of the Mon Valley.

Ceremonies will begin at 12:55 p.m., or 7:55 a.m. in Hawaii – the same time bombing began 70 years ago. Attendees should arrive 15 minutes prior. Featured speaker will be United States Navy Captain Gregory H Miller.

Also present will be other area leaders and participation by other local veterans’ service organizations. As in years past, Pearl Harbor survivors will be in attendance, including VFW Post 914’s remaining Pearl Harbor survivor, Bernard Ordos of West Mifflin, and Pearson Harkema.

Pearson Harkema is a 1939 graduate of Monessen High School and a lifelong resident of Monessen. He served as a Fire Controlman First Class on the battleship USS Oklahoma when the Japanese attacked the United States

military facilities in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941. He escaped when the stricken ship was sinking by jumping over the side into oil-soaked, flaming water. Although injured, he was able to be rescued and brought ashore. He recovered from his wounds and served with the Navy aboard the USS North Hampton, a heavy cruiser, and the battleship USS Indiana.

Army Pvt. Bernard Ordos was waiting to be relieved of guard duty the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, on the U.S. Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when Japanese fighter planes launched a surprise attack. He was able to survive the bombing and strafing, and weeks after the attack, Mr. Ordos was sent to the Gilbert Islands, where he and fellow soldiers relieved the Marines who had captured the area from the Japanese.

Live music of patriotic songs will be performed by the award-winning West Mifflin Area High School Titan Thunder Band. The West Mifflin Area High School's Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Honor Guard will also participate.

For more information call Post Quartermaster Mike Mauer at 412-461-2305.

Email from Harry (Dean) Clark, MOPH, Dept. of PA., Chief of Staff

VA for Vets

VA for Vets, an outstanding new program to help Veterans find appropriate careers at the Department of Veterans Affairs, officially launched on Veterans Day. VA for Vets is a new program that takes a high-tech and high-touch approach to recruiting, hiring, retaining, and reintegrating Veterans into the VA workforce. As part of its high-tech solution, the program offers state of the art online tools for Veterans as they seek employment or look to further career development opportunities. The online Career Center includes: a military skills translator that translates military skills into civilian language; a resume builder that tailors Veterans' resumes so they can more easily compete for open positions in VA; and avatar-based technology that connects deployed service members back to VA during their operational missions. The high-touch solution comes in the form of career and reintegration coaches who are readily available to help Veterans and service members take full advantage of opportunities offered through the career center or to ensure a seamless transition into the VA workforce. The VA for Vets program represents a commitment to transforming the way VA hires and retains Veterans.

VA NEWS THIS WEEK

Stories included in VA News for the week of November 14, 2011:

- * Veterans Day Tease of Coverage to Come
- * 2-Minutes: VA PTSD Programs
- * "Surviving-to-Thriving" - VA Cares for Wounded Warriors
- * Day Three at National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
- * The Cars Return to Cruise the Coast & the Biloxi VAMC
- * Did You Know? - VA Deemed "Outstanding" by HACU

Co-hosts for this edition of VA News are Carmen Cordoba with the Media Services Division in the Office of Human Resources and Management and Marvin Cornish with the Office of the Under Secretary for Health Operations and Management. You can view VA News on demand on the OPIA Web page. On the VA Home page at <http://www.va.gov/>, click on "Media Room," then on "videos."

[cid:image001.jpg@01CCA4E2.DE5C5920]<<http://www.va.gov/opa/feature/vanews/index.asp>>

VA News<<http://www.va.gov/opa/feature/vanews/index.asp>>

PTSD Coach Smartphone Application



The Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Coach smartphone application, jointly developed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD), is being honored today as one of seven recipients of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman's Awards for Advancements in Accessibility. The goal of the Chairman Awards is to encourage technological innovation in communication-related areas and recognize annually those outstanding efforts in the public and private sector as well as public-private partnerships that advance accessibility. This includes the development of individual mainstream or assistive technologies introduced into the marketplace, the development of standard or best practices that foster accessibility or the development of a new consumer clearinghouse of disability-related products and services. The numerous submissions were judged by a panel of seven FCC executives. All winners are being honored today at an awards ceremony at the FCC headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Information on the PTSD Coach app is on the VA's National Center for PTSD Website:

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/PTSDCoach.asp>

The app is one of the first in a series of jointly-designed resources by the VA National Center for

PTSD and DoD's National Center for Telehealth and Technology to help service members and Veterans manage their readjustment challenges and get anonymous assistance.

Repeat from October 2011 Dept. of Pennsylvania's News Bulletin

WHAT PILOTS SEE WHEN LANDING AT OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE

A Farmer does this with his Tractor. He uses a GPS to get the letters readable. He has done this every Fall for several years now. Here's the view from the flight pattern into OFFUTT AIRFORCE BASE, Bellevue, NE. Just South of Omaha, this is what the Servicemembers see when they come home. Hats off to the Bellevue Farmer who makes this happen.



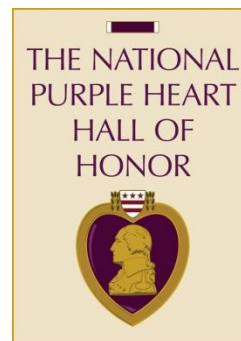


Remembering the FROZEN CHOSIN

FILM SCREENING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2011

11:00 A.M.



In the winter of 1950, 15,000 U.S. troops were surrounded and trapped by 120,000 Chinese soldiers in the frozen mountains of North Korea. Refusing surrender, the men fought 78 miles to freedom and saved the lives of 98,000 civilian refugees. After 61 years of silence, survivors of the Chosin Reservoir Campaign take viewers on an emotional and heart-pounding journey through one of the most savage battles in American history.

After the film, meet with co-Producer & Director Brian Iglesias to hear about the making of this documentary.

Admission is free.

Seating is limited and reservations are strongly recommended.

Please call 845-561-1765 for reservations

374 Temple Hill Road

New Windsor, NY 12553

www.thepurpleheart.com

Our email address has changed.

The new address is "[@parcs.ny.gov](mailto:)". Please update your contact lists.

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

At the Veterans' Day Parade in New York City, the oldest and youngest Medal of Honor recipients posed for this photograph.

Nicolas Oresko was awarded the MOH for cleaning out bunkers full of Nazis during the Battle of the Bulge, and Dakota Meyer was awarded his for rescuing cut off soldiers under heavy attack from Taliban insurgents.

Paul Sutton "Dominus Fortissima Turris"

Patriotism: Supporting your Country ALL THE TIME; and, your government when it deserves it - MARK TWAIN

**IF YOU DON'T STAND BEHIND OUR TROOPS,
PLEASE, FEEL FREE TO STAND IN FRONT OF THEM !!!**

"Freedom is not free . . . but the U.S. Military will pay most of your share."

Pacifism is a luxury paid for by warriors!!

America Does Not Deserve Her Military!



Scam: Locking your Car Doors using a remote. Don't do it!

This is important. Please pass it on...

Car lock - 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!



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