



Cpl. William F. Reardon
MA. Chapter 57
“The Can Do Chapter”
Chapter 57 Newsletter
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CHAPTER OFFICERS 508 -828-1808

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Commander | Mort Morin |
| Sr. Vice Commander | Leroy Crossman |
| Jr. Vice Commander | Francis Ardita |
| Adjutant | Paul Waldron |
| Treasurer | Martin Fox |
| Chaplain | Armando Medeiros |
| Officer of The Day | James Zahar |
| Sergeant At Arms | Stephen Horton |
| Service Officer | John Fielding |
| Quartermaster | Norman Willoughby |
| Armorer | Frank Ardita |

January / February 2009

Volume 6 Number 3

Page 1

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

The calendar keeps moving along out of control. We've had a great many things keeping us on our toes.

But, one of the greatest shocks in my life happened right after Christmas. The Middleboro Allied Veterans Council had a reception for SSgt. Michael Downing, home on leave from Walter Reed Hospital. Chapter 57 represented the DAV among the veterans groups. Our contribution was to present Michael with a paid-up Life Membership in the Disabled American Veterans, a request that he take an active part in our chapter when released from the hospital and lots and lots of best wishes and good luck.

The reception was at the Middleboro VFW. There were members of all of the veterans organization and from all of the wars. The shock came when a call came for all of the World War II veterans to stand for audience recognition. I was the only one!!! Earlier that morning, Norm Willoughby handed me a plaque to present to the family of a WW II veteran being waked the next day. The next morning he called and said to pick up another plaque for a second WW II vet being waked that evening. Needless to say, the shock at being the only WW II vet at the reception and being the presenter at two WW II wakes the following day set me thinking. We have to make a concerted effort to get the stories from our older veterans before they leave us for good. This is history at a personal level; history of an individual people can relate to.

Hopefully, we will be in our own quarters before summer of 2009. One of the things that I would like to see happen is a chapter campaign to get living histories of WW II veterans. This is something that obviously can't be put off. As noted earlier, as a group, the older warriors are leaving us at an accelerated rate. We have to get their stories either in written or oral form. Our building will have an interview room for the Service Officers and others needing privacy for their work. This room will be available. What we'll need are interviewers and people to tell their story. Think about it; you may be called upon to participate. We're all involved. With the Korean veterans in their 70's they aren't far behind the WW II people. What's more, we all have a story to tell about our days in service. Just because you aren't one of the older members today -doesn't mean that you don't have a story to tell.

We've got things to do. We must participate. Let's work at it, now.

Editor's Note: In this edition is a profile of one of our members, Ken Bradshaw. He shares his experience in Korea. We would like to see more of our members participating. The memories you hold will be lost if you don't tell them.

UPDATE ON THE CHAPTER OWNED
MIDDLEBORO BUILDING

The former Chapter 36 Building, as you know was turned over to the Chapter 57 Corporation as part of the merger that brought the two Chapter's together. The building was rented when it was turned over. The existing tenant was given the first opportunity to purchase the building or the first refusal to purchase. The tenant was unable to come up with the money to purchase the property.

Middleboro Realtor George Chase was contacted after the refusal and Chapter 57 entered into a contract with him to advertise the building for sale. In November Mr. Chase notified the Chapter that he had an offer to purchase the building. The offering price was considerably lower than the asking price. This information was presented to the membership at the November meeting of the Chapter. A course of action was decided upon and a counter offer was made through Realtor Chase. A subsequent counter offer by the prospective purchaser was made and accepted by the Chapter Corporation's Officers, based on the direction received from the members.

Commander Morin signed the Purchase and Sales agreement. The purchaser has agreed and signed the agreement. At present there is a closing date set for late February.

The original offer to purchase included a clause that the buyer wanted a the building free of tenants. The Chapter Corporation informed the tenant, that they would have to vacate the property. This has been done and the building is now vacant. The Chapter is arranging for the storage of the furnishings and will move them in February, prior to the closing date.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Once again this year the Chapter's annual Christmas Party was held at the Holiday Inn in Taunton. The company, food, and program and were excellent. The meeting portion of the program included the announcement that the Chapter **may** soon have its own quarters. Our thanks to the Planning Committee, Steve Horton, Norm Willoughby, Pete Fox and Steve's wife Pat for their efforts in planning and coordinating this event.



The new Chapter Quarters is located in the center of downtown Taunton, across from the Historic Taunton Green. According to our long Time Commander Mort Morin this will be a Location that we will be able to staff and be more readily accessible to our members.

This announcement was most welcome by our members. This is the first real home the Chapter has had in seventy five years! This is A great Christmas present. Photo at left .

**PRIZE DRAWING
UPDATE**

We have two different monetary prizes at each meeting. The first is a door prize with a chance being given to every member in attendance. It is \$25.00 for some lucky attendee at the meeting. Secondly, we have a Membership drawing which requires the member to be in attendance or forfeit the prize. The names of each individual member are maintained in a jar. One name is drawn at each meeting. This drawing is progressive, in that, the amount is increased each month until won by a member who is in attendance.

PRIZE DRAWINGS

\$25.00 Attendance Door Prize:

November – James Zahar
December – No Drawing

Membership Prize

(If not present the prize is forfeited).

November – Lewis Cavallaro
December – No Drawing

CH. 57 CALENDAR

Meetings are held the
Third Tuesdays Except July &
August

Meeting time - 6:30PM

**Elk's Lodge 119 High St.
Taunton, MA.**

MEETING DATES :

Feb. 17, 2009 - Regular Meeting

Mar. 17, 2009 - Regular Meeting

RECENTLY DEPARTED

COMRADES

Joseph F. Deane 12/08 WWII

Antone Machado 12/08 WWII

William H. Ohler 12/08. WWII

57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

It's hard to believe that another year has gone by! This is the fastest that I remember a year disappearing!

The following is a quote from Samuel Johnson of *December 24, 1751* - "No vicious dispositions of the mind more obstinately resist both the counsels of philosophy and the injunctions of religion than those which are complicated with an opinion of dignity; and which we cannot dismiss without leaving in the hands of opposition some advantage iniquitously (in ignorance) obtained, or suffering from our own prejudices some imputation (suggestion) of pusillanimity (putting a damper on things).



For this reason scarcely any law of our Redeemer is more openly transgressed, or more industriously evaded, than that by which he commands his followers to forgive injuries, and prohibits, under the sanction of eternal misery, the gratification of the desire which every man feels to return pain upon him that inflicts it. Many who could have conquered their anger are unable to combat pride, and pursue offences to the extremity of vengeance, lest they should be insulted by the triumph of an enemy."

Whoa! Big words for a big new year! What Johnson is talking about is VENGEANCE. When we have been wronged the feeling of getting even can overtake our own good counsel and that of others. Even God counsels against it. However, we are blinded by our own perceptions.

We may believe that it is impossible to save face without extracting vengeance. We may feel that it will give an unfair victory or advantage to the party that wronged us. There are many other feelings that come from real or perceived actions against us. All of these drag us down.

We have all heard of, "To ere is human, to forgive is Devine". Rather than be dragged down by vengeance it is better to show compassion and forgiveness, which will in the end be uplifting for you. God Bless till next time

Please notify me of any illness or passing of members at 508-822-0713 Armando Medeiros

WALK WITH US

We are in real need of Color Guard and Honor Guard members. We hope to be able to perform rifle volleys with the M-1 Rifles at ceremonies. If interested contact Commander Morin as listed below. The Honor Guard and Color Guard will perform as a Unit

Our 2008/9 VA Medical Center parties have resumed. It would be great to see new volunteers at these events. This means a lot to the hospitalized Veterans please volunteer its only 1-1/2 hours a month out of your time, that's not asking a lot of you to put a smile on a vet's face. **All parties begin at 6:30 pm in Bldg. 2. Meet at the front entrance of the building. The next dates are Feb. 24 and Mar. 24**

If you would like to assist Chapter 57 at **Homes For Our Troops**, Call Sgt. at Arms, Steve Horton, for more info at 508-339-6587.

The Chapter Color Guard is in need of younger members, that are able to walk. We need both members and alternates.

For more information on other opportunities to help out call Mort Morin at 508-828-1808 and help us in our commitment to Disabled Veterans.

Commander Morin is constantly in awe of all our members contribute He gets praise from within and without the DAV community as a result of your our accomplishments actions. Keep up the good work!

Don't sit in front of the TV. Do something for others as you have given of yourselves in the past. You can still serve you fellow countrymen just in a different way than before. But, It is no less effective and it lets our fellow members and their families know they are not alone.

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SACK LUNCHES

Sent in By Kim Matthews, By Unknown Author

It was going to be a long flight I decided to start a conversation. "Where are you headed"? I asked the soldier seated nearest to me. "To special training, we'll be there for two weeks and then we're being deployed to Iraq". After flying for about an hour, an announcement was made that sack lunches were available for five dollars. I overheard a soldier ask his buddy if he planned to buy lunch. 'No, that seems like a lot of money for just a sack lunch'.

I looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch. I walked to the back of the plane and handed the flight attendant a fifty dollar bill. 'Take a lunch to all those soldiers.' She grabbed my arms and squeezed tightly. Her eyes wet with tears, she thanked me. 'My son was a soldier in Iraq ; it's almost like you are doing it for him.' Picking up ten sacks, she headed up the aisle to where the soldiers were seated. After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, heading for the rest room. A man stopped me. "I saw what you did. I want to be part of it. Here, take this". He handed me twenty-five dollars.

Soon after I returned to my seat, I saw the Flight Captain coming down the aisle. When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, held out his hand, and said, 'I want to shake your hand'. Quickly unfastening my seatbelt, I stood and took the Captain's hand. With a booming voice he said, 'I was a soldier and I was a military pilot. Once, someone bought me a lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot.' I was embarrassed when applause was heard from all of the passengers. Later I walked to the front of the plane so I could stretch my legs. A man who was seated about six rows in front of me reached out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another twenty-five dollars in my palm.

When we landed in Chicago, I gathered my belongings and started to deplane. Waiting just inside the airplane door was a man who stopped me, put something in my shirt pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word. Another twenty-five dollars!

Upon entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to the base. I walked over to them and handed them seventy-five dollars. 'It will take you some time to reach the base. It will be about time for a sandwich. God Bless You". Ten young men left that flight feeling the love and respect of their fellow travelers. **Unverified story. It has been E-Mailed and forwarded on the Internet. However, the theme of showing respect to Armed Forces personnel is a good one.**

CHAPTER 57 VAMC PARTY PROGRAM

The schedule for the program, which is held in Building #2 at the Brockton VA Hospital on Belmont Street in Brockton, MA (Just off Route 24), is as follows.

24 Feb. 24 Mar. 28 Apr. 26 May 23 June 09
We meet at 6:00 – 6:15pm at the entrance to Building #2, the night of the program. Please save this article as a reminder of the dates of this important service program.

REMINDER FROM THE QUARTERMASTER

The Chapter Jacket is earned by the Member for attending meetings and Chapter sponsored functions. These include the Forget Me Not Drive, VA Hospital Parties, Parades and other types of service activities. The Member must attend five (5) meetings or a combination of meetings and functions. It is best to include functions rather than all meetings. This affords the opportunity to interact with others better than at the formal meetings. Two excluded activities are the Annual Christmas Party and Annual Cookout.

Jackets are given out at the installation dinner in May. You have two months left to meet the criteria for this year. Norm Willoughby, Quartermaster

HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

As you read in the Commander's Message, Chapter 57 has presented S/Sgt Mike Downing with a paid up life Membership in the DAV. **Homes for Our Troops (HFOT)**, announced at the same time they are building a home for Mike, in Middleboro, MA.

This will be the second home that **HFOT** has built in Middleboro. Chapter 57 is proud to be associated with this fine organization. It exemplifies what the DAV is really about and that is **Building Better Lives For Americans Disabled Veterans.**

Our Chapter, not only helps this organization in donations of time by our members, but with cash contributions.

At our January 2009 meeting a motion to donate \$1000.00 to HFOT and earmark the donation to be used in Mike's home in Middleboro was made. There were seconds all over and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Treasurer Pete Fox has presented the check to the staff at HFOT.

The people at Homes For Our Troops taking care of individual Disabled Veterans, across the Country. They would like to help all of our returning veterans. But, that is beyond there limited funds. Their website can be viewed at homesforourtroops.org.

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MEMBER PROFILE

The doorbell at the Inverness home of Kenneth L. Bradshaw, Jr., greets visitors with the Notre Dame fight song. The greeting is illustrative of Bradshaw's fighting Irish spirit that enabled him to survive on the battlefields of Korea.

Born in Taunton, Massachusetts, Bradshaw grew up in neighboring Raynham. After graduating from Taunton Vocational School in 1947, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in January 1948.

Within weeks of the outbreak of the Korean War on June 25, 1950, Bradshaw was sent as an individual replacement to the 24th Infantry Division, which was defending the Pusan Perimeter against advancing North Korean forces. Assigned to Company E, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry, he soon formed an inseparable friendship with three unit members---Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud, Corporal Bob Black and Sergeant John Moore

The successful September 15 Inchon landings by U.S. forces and breakout of the Pusan Perimeter caused North Korean resistance to evaporate. By late October, Bradshaw's division was within 18 miles of the Yalu River, which separates North Korea from the People's Republic of China.

Amid talk of the war being over by Christmas, Bradshaw's company learned the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had crossed the Yalu River en massed. In anticipation of the PLA onslaught, Bradshaw's company was ordered to withdraw to Hill 123 and establish defensive positions.

Prior to dawn on November 5, Corporal Red Cloud, a Marine veteran of WW II fondly called "Chief" because of his Native American heritage, sounded the battle cry with "Here they come".

Under the cover of darkness, the Chinese had flanked Company E undetected to attack it from the rear. Bradshaw moved from his two man fighting position to a vantage point to engage the advancing enemy with hand grenades. Returning to his fighting position, he found his fellow defender dead.

As his company's defenses crumbled, Bradshaw withdrew down a ravine with three Chinese soldiers in pursuit. Taking cover behind rocks, he took aim at his pursuers, killing all three. He then continued his withdrawal until he came upon and took temporary refuge with a heavy weapons company.

Of the approximately 160 members of Company E, most were killed, wounded or captured. While Bradshaw miraculously escaped unscathed, his friends Red Cloud, Black and Moore were killed in action. Despite being wounded three times, Corporal Red Cloud's valiant and fierce fight to the death earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously.

After Bradshaw's company was reconstituted, it endured a series of engagements and withdrawals southward until the battle lines stabilized in the vicinity of the 38th parallel, which politically divides the two Koreas. In the days that followed, Company E found itself ceding and retaking ground and preparing defenses for the next major PLA assault.

The inevitable assault came on February 6, 1951 during which Bradshaw earned his Purple Heart. The Chinese assault was supported with deadly fire from a machinegun position. Bradshaw, in turn, placed machinegun fire on the enemy position knocking it out of action. Bradshaw's successful action brought heavy enemy fire on his position, wounding him in the right arm and his assistant gunner in the shoulder.

Severely wounded and seeking medical attention, Bradshaw and his assistant gunner made their way to the company aid station. After the Chinese attack subsided, he was evacuated to the battalion aid station and then to Pusan for further evacuation to the 155th Station Hospital in Yokohama, Japan.

Close to two months later, Bradshaw was evacuated to Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C. Following several surgeries and 15 months of rehabilitation, he was medically retired from the U.S. Army in May 1952.

Returning to Raynham Massachusetts as the proud recipient of the Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman Badge, Bradshaw took up civilian life ultimately retiring in 1983 from General Electric with 29 years service

To be profiled send us your and copies of photos to Chapter 57 P.O. Box 57 Taunton, MA 02302



Before landing in Korea



Ken today




Ken with his Korean War Veteran Hat



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SIX MONTHS INTO THE CHAPTER YEAR

As a chapter we have accomplished a great deal during the current year. We have gotten the Middleboro building on the market AND we have a buyer for it. We have scouted around for either a building or a piece of land for a building closer to our central area AND we found a building (the building at 5-7 Taunton Green) and have made arrangements to purchase it. We are in our fourth year of The 57 Show AND we've begun to train backup people for all of the jobs. We decided that rather than nickel and dime the patients in Building 2 at Brockton VAMC for Christmas they ought to get something that they could all enjoy AND we bought them a big screen TV instead of socks and t-shirts.

We've done other things, of course. Like, given a Life Membership to Middleboro Sgt. Michael Downing AND made a donation to Homes For Our Troops for renovation to his home. Our Service Officers are busy assisting those needing help AND our officers are digging in with new ideas and projects. Now it's time for us as members to start thinking of an annual task - election of officers.

We have to elect a Nominating Committee before we elect officers. Anyone interested in serving on the Committee should contact Adjutant Paul Waldron or me, so that we can get a ballot going. Anyone interested in serving as an officer should start writing out their reasons for running and their qualifications. I have to say that as Commander, this year's officers and committee members have been the best since the Black Plague, when I took over. However, that is a personal opinion and you should challenge it if you disagree.

As members, we all, have to participate if the chapter is going to continue to remain a viable part of the veterans' position in Greater Taunton. We have to support our officers. We have to support our Chapter. We have to continue working to serve the Disabled American veteran, his/her spouse, children and dependents. There is no slacking off. Will you help your officers, fellow members and me in moving forward?

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2009 – 2010

A Nominating Committee will be formed at the February 17, 2009 Meeting. The Committee will be responsible for obtaining the names of those interested in running for Chapter Office. A preliminary report will be made at the March 17, Meeting and a Final Committee Report will be presented at the April 17 Meeting just prior to the election of next years officers. If you are interested in running for office please contact the Committee after February 2009 by calling 508- 588-5245

THOUGHTS FROM JVC

I began to think about writing a column for our Brothers and Sisters who, for any number of reasons, thought they had nothing to contribute to the workings of Chapter 57.

Since I became a member just a short time ago, it has been a true revelation as to the number of interests and activities many of you have and do not tell those interests and stories to other members because you think it's just an interest or story that you may have, but would not be of interest to anyone else.

I listen with great attention to the funny lines and short stories told by comrades, just sitting around the breakfast table or coffee Bar. I watch the interaction between comrades at the VA hospital while caring for those veterans less off that we are with injuries of the mind from which many will never recover, but you show unlimited compassion to these comrades and think it would go unnoticed. I watch with interest the patient interactions and the care with which you all go that extra step to make a simple pizza party a major meal for our comrades.

One of the duties of the Junior Vice Commander includes the establishment of harmony and patriotism among the comrades of the chapter. Having said this I WANT TO MAKE YOU AWARE OF A PROPOSED CONTEST TO BE PRESENTED AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING. It will be named **OPERATION FLAG**

This contest would work as follows; I would ask you to notice the US flags which people display around the area and identify one which is in serious need of a replacement. The contest will be run without embarrassing anyone, but by making a statement of how much the flag means to us. Here's how it can work. Take a picture of the flag. After the pictures are taken make note of the address. Bring the picture to the April Meeting. where the members will vote the worst flag. We then first give the comrade who took the award winning picture an extra ticket for the attendance drawing, giving them two chances to win. Next, I will draw up a short letter: to read something like below.

Dear fellow American

We at the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 57 in Taunton, have noticed that the American Flag you display at your home is tattered. We are offering your family a new flag, free of charge, for your display. If you are interested please call 1-508-789-3448 and we will replace your old flag with a new one and properly dispose of the old one.

Sincerely,

Disabled American Veteran's Chapter 57

SHRAPNEL

We know what it is! Some of us still carry it around. But, why is it called SHRAPNEL? Because it was invented by Henry (You guessed it!) Shrapnel. He invented the exploding shell with lead balls inside. It was first used in the Battle of Waterloo against Napoleon's troops. He took sixteen years to perfect his invention. The British kept it secret for years but finally gave him a pension. Now you have more useless information to store in your brain.



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A NEW HOME FOR CHAPTER 57

As you know Chapter 57 has never had its own quarters. With a little luck, that is about to change with the sale of the building in Middleboro, that we inherited and our offer to purchase the Knight's of Columbus Building in downtown Taunton. If everything goes smoothly we will be in our own place in March. What does this mean for you?

There are several things we hope to accomplish with this office and meeting space. First is to become more available to our members, by actually staffing the office at various times each week. Providing Service Officers to assist with the filing of your claims. Becoming more user friendly to our members and to introduce prospective members to the DAV Family. We will be able to conduct meetings in a way that is more convenient for our members. There are many more uses being discussed.

The Disabled American Veterans does not use one cent of Forget-Me-Not funds, raised as part of our annual FMN Drive on building expenses. Forget-Me-Not money is spent on programs that provide assistance to Disabled American Veterans, their widows and orphans. For that reason Commander Morin has requested that the Chapter be allowed to conduct a fund raising program for Administrative and Building funds. He speaks to that in a related below

ADMIN FUND RAISING PERMISSION

We are in the process of obtaining permission to conduct an in-house fund raising campaign to rehabilitate and equip our new quarters at 5 -7 Taunton Green, Taunton. This will be the new home of YOUR Chapter 57.

Once approval is received I will be asking each and every one of you to please take a look and see if you can make a contribution to a Chapter 57 Administrative Fund. The fact that we are a charitable non-profits make things a little easier for us. But, the fact remains that we will be property owners and like the rest of them there will be expenses that will be constantly rising up to hit us between the eyes.

Will you please make a special effort to fund an administrative account that we can use to clean up, renovate and equip our new building? Fifty or a hundred dollars would be wonderful. Ten or twenty dollars would be gratefully received. A dollar or two would help - (of course, I be coming back for more, later.) I know that there are members who can't even spare a dollar. Maybe, they'll be able to spare an hour or so cleaning up or painting. For you see, there is a great deal to be done and many ways to accomplish our goal - pleasant and workable quarters. For more information, please, contact Quartermaster Norm Willoughby, 508 823-8518; Treasurer Pete Fox, 508 822-4165 or Commander Mort Morin, 508 828-1808. - Cmdr. Morin

VA ASSISTING VETERANS WITH HEALTH

CARE COSTS

WASHINGTON -- For veterans struggling financially due to a job loss or decreased income, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers an assortment of programs that can relieve the costs of health care or provide care at no cost.

“With the downturn in the economy, VA recognizes that many veterans will feel the effects,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “Therefore, it is important that eligible veterans learn of the many ways VA has to help them afford the health care they have earned.”

Veterans whose previous income was ruled too high for VA health care may be able to enter the VA system based upon a hardship if their current year's income is projected to fall below federal income thresholds due to a job loss, separation from service or some other financial setback. Veterans determined eligible due to hardship can avoid co-pays applied to higher-income veterans. Qualifying veterans may be eligible for enrollment and receive health care at no cost.

Also eligible for no-cost VA care are most veterans who recently returned from a combat zone. They are entitled to five years of free VA care. The five-year “clock” begins with their discharge from the military, not their departure from the combat zone.

Each VA medical center across the country has an enrollment coordinator available to provide veterans information about these programs. Veterans may also contact VA's Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222 VETS (8387) or visit the VA health eligibility website at www.va.gov/healtheligibility.

ARMY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT



President George W. Bush signed the "United States Army Commemorative Coin Act of 2008" into law, authorizing the creation of a series of commemorative coins to recognize and celebrate the establishment of the U.S. Army in 1775, and to honor the service and sacrifice of American Soldiers of both past and present, in wartime and in peace. These will be the first U.S. coins ever issued to celebrate and honor the Army and its 234 year heritage. The U.S. Mint will work on six coin designs, front and back with the Army Historical Foundation. Coins will be minted and sold during 2011 and come in a \$5 gold piece, a silver dollar and a copper-clad half dollar. An estimated \$10-\$12 million of the sales revenues will help fund the National Museum of the U.S. Army slated for construction at Fort Belvoir, Va.

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Send us your funny stories. We'll use non offensive, family style jokes. Please include your name.

CHOW

During a Field Training Exercise, the battalion commander was upset that evening chow was late. He called the mess hall, and the mass sergeant explained that because their vehicle broke down, they couldn't deliver the field rations to our bivouac site.

The commander immediately yelled to his driver, "Private! Drive to the mess hall and get chow!" The private took off on the 15-minute trip. Over an hour later, we were dismayed to see him return empty-handed. "Private!" demanded the commander. "What about chow?" "It was delicious, sir." replied the driver. "I got there right before the mess hall closed, so I got seconds."

TAKE YOUR PICK

A soldier, serving overseas, was annoyed and very upset when his girlfriend sent him a letter breaking off their engagement and asking that he return her photograph.

So he asked his friends for all the unwanted photographs of women that they had. He bundled these photos together and mailed them to her with a note that said: "Regret that I cannot remember which one is you. Please pick out your photo and return all the others."

GET A NEW ATTORNEY IF ---

1. During your initial consultation he tries to sell you Amway.
2. He tells you that his last good case was a "Budweiser."
3. When the prosecutors see who your lawyer is, they high-five each other.
4. During the trial he keeps asking you what the witness said.
5. Every couple of minutes he yells, "I call Jack Daniels to the stand!" and proceeds to drink a shot.
6. He places a large "No Refunds" sign on the defense table.
7. Just before trial starts he whispers, "The judge is the one with the little hammer, right?"
8. Just before he says "Your Honor," he makes those little quotation marks in the air with his fingers.
9. The sign in front of his law office reads "Practicing Law Since 2:25 PM."
10. Whenever his objection is overruled, he tells the judge, "Whatever."

STOPPING A BAD HABIT

Two elderly women were fussing about their husbands over tea one day.

"I do wish my Leroy would stop biting his nails. That makes me terribly nervous!" the first one said.

"Oh, my Elmer used to do the same thing," the other woman commented. "But I broke him of that habit real quick."

"What did you do?"

"I hid his teeth!"

WHAT IS DIABETES

Diabetes is when there is too much sugar in your blood. Having too much Sugar in your body over time can cause blindness, kidney failure, heart disease and can also result in the loss of toes, feet or even your legs.

There are two main types of diabetes they are type 1, and type 2. Type 1 diabetes comes on all at once and your body stops making insulin, which your body needs to keep the sugar in check. Because your body stopped making insulin you will need to take insulin shots along with a proper diet and exercise. The sad thing about type 1 diabetes is it's not age restricted but usually will strike people mostly under 40. Five to 10% of all diabetes cases are type 1. Now let's talk about type2. Type 2 is not like type 1 in respect to how fast it comes on type to is more the slow train to China. Type 2 slowly sneaks up on you. It also differs in away that it's either your body does not produce enough insulin or it produces

too much for your body to use. A lot of the time this type of diabetes can be controlled by diet and exercise. If that does not work you may need to take medication or even insulin shots. This type of diabetes is different form type one for the simple reason that it attacks people over forty unlike type 1. 90% of all diabetes is type 2.

There is also Gestational diabetes. This occurs in pregnant women and it usually goes away after birth but it makes the woman more likely to get type 2 later in life. If you know you have diabetes make sure you have your eyes examined once a Year and to have your feet checked regularly.


A lot of this info is available from Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health Diabetes Program. One last thing if you find you have sores that take along time healing go to the Doctors and have him check you out. It could save your limbs and life.

CHAPTER 57 HEAT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Chapter 57 will once again, this year present heating assistance to four of the spouses of our deceased members. These wives, who were once a part of DAV active life are not forgotten and the Chapter would like to be able to help all of the widows. Unfortunately we, being a non profit organization and relying solely on donations, must try to help with many worthy projects.

The Chapter would like to be able to provide assistance to all of the widows and orphans of our members. We cannot do this due to limited resources. We depend on our members to help us by volunteering for our Forget-Me-Not Fund Raising Drive.

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VA TRAVEL INCREASE FOR SOME

Service-disabled and low-income veterans who are reimbursed for travel expenses while receiving care at Department of Veterans Affairs facilities saw an increase in their payments as of Jan. 9, 2009. A recently passed law allows VA to cut the amount it must withhold from their mileage reimbursement. The deductible amount will be \$3 for each one-way trip and \$6 for each round trip -- with a calendar cap of \$18, or six one-way trips or three round trips, whichever comes first. The previous deductible was \$7.77 for a one-way trip and \$15.54 for a round trip, with a calendar cap of \$46.62.

PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH / TBI OUTREACH CENTER OPENS

The Department of Defense recently opened a 24-hour outreach center to provide information and referrals to military servicemembers, veterans, their families and others with questions about psychological health and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

The new center, operated by the Defense Centers of Excellence (DCoE), for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury can be contacted anytime at (866) 966-1020, and by e-mail at resources@dcoeoutreach.org.

MARKERS FOR VETERANS GRAVES

On Memorial Day people visit cemeteries to visit the graves of relatives, friends that have passed. We see the many US Flags flying over the graves of our comrades and other veterans of the military. Did you ever wonder how those flags get there? The answer is easy! They are placed by veterans, and other volunteer organizations. That seems easy, right. **WRONG!**

The numbers of volunteers has been declining. Another large problem is locating the graves of veterans. Sure, there are lists, but, they are incomplete. This being the case many veterans graves do not receive a Flag on Memorial Day.

One of our members, Sgt. At Arms Stephen Horton and a friend Donald French have come up with an idea that will help to identify the veterans graves.

They have started an organization called Taunton Veterans Memorial Marker. These two gentlemen presented their idea to the Taunton City Council, with a cost estimate of \$45,000. The Council liked the idea. Councilor Gerald Croteau suggested that the city might put up the money. Another suggestion was the city might phase in the cost with \$5,000 a year. The suggestions were sent to the Finance and Salaries Subcommittee. The markers cost \$7.00 a piece. If you want to help Steve you may contact him at 508 339-6587

Come and join us. ----- We can use your skills if you would like to help. ----- Will you walk with us???

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Disabled American Veterans
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