



**Cpl. William F. Reardon**  
**MA. Chapter 57**  
**“The Can Do Chapter”**  
**Chapter 57 Newsletter**  
**P.O. BOX 57**  
**Taunton, MA 02780**

Website:  
<http://davtaunton.tripod.com>  
E-Mail - [Davch57@yahoo.com](mailto:Davch57@yahoo.com)

**CHAPTER OFFICERS 508 -823-0409**  
Commander Leroy Crossman  
Sr. Vice Cmdr. Francis Ardita  
Jr. Vice Cmdr. William Laliberte  
Adjutant Paul Waldron  
Treasurer Martin Fox  
Chaplain Don Ryan  
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Sergeant At Arms Stephen Horton  
Service Officer Dir Mort Morin  
Quartermaster Norman Willoughby  
Legislative Officer Bill Blight  
Armorer Mort Morin

January / February 2011

Volume 9 Number 1

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**COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

It is hard to believe that it past the midway point in my first year as Commander of Chapter 57. When the elections were held last April and the Installation Ceremony took place in May, I was definitely apprehensive about the new role. When I took the reins of this wonderful Chapter I realized what a job it is for the Commander is asked to do.

With my realization of the responsibility came a new respect for our immediate past Commander Mort Morin and his team dedicated individuals that built Chapter 57 up from its low point in the late 1990's and early 2000's. Mort began with a die hard core of five individuals. They included Armando Medeiros, Charlie Bliss, Carl Olson, Richard LaVoie and Paul Waldron. It was this team that was able to turn a dying Chapter into a great, thriving, vibrant Chapter 57. Ultimately the Chapter got the name “The Can Do Chapter”. It seemed like there was nothing that we couldn't do or accomplish.

That core of individuals began with their first forget me not drive. They began running programs at the VA, that had been abandoned as a Chapter activity. Next came the Newsletter because it was important to communicate with our members. The next big event was the Chapter's own TV Show. There have now been over sixty of these shows produced. Then came our Chapter Color Guard and the first time they appeared was in the Elk's Flag Day Ceremony in 2005. In March 2009 the biggest event in the Chapter's history occurred. Chapter 57 after seventy five years had a Headquarters of their own to call home. For these and all of the accomplishments we owe these dedicated core members and many others a heartfelt thank you.

Today I have the daunting task of following an act that is a difficult act to follow. I am asking that all of you walk with me as we continue to build this wonderful Chapter. Remember this is your Chapter. Together we can make it greater. We need everyone's help to continue our progress toward making this the number on Chapter in Massachusetts. We need your expertise in almost every area. Are you good with finance and or taxes, then we need your assistance. We need people with motivational, maintenance, plumbing, electrical and just about any skill you can imagine. We need more contributors to the Building fund. What it all boils down to is we need our members! Yes, all of you! You are the backbone of the Chapter. Don't let the Chapter go backwards. The best way to say thank you to those who worked to preserve the Chapter is to Volunteer and keep us moving forward and expanding. Please Come in and help Norm Willoughby, Denise Furtado, Paul Waldron, Steve Horton, Jim Gray, Walter Elliot, Mort Morin and your other Comrades.

**A POLITICAL RANT ABOUT THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND ENTITLEMENTS**

The federal government has limited resources – they cannot continue to borrow and spend beyond their means.

Here are the facts that I've been able to dig out:

The Federal government will take in about 2.2 trillion in taxes in 2011

The 2011 budget submitted to the congress was for 3.83 Trillion  
The Federal government will have to borrow 1.6 trillion to pay for the difference.

The present Federal debt is 14.1 trillion dollars.

Interest on that debt is 414 billion dollars per year –about 12% of the total federal budget.

56% of the budget will go toward “entitlements” , 23% for health, 21% for pensions, and 12% for welfare, 24% of the budget will go to defense spending, 20% of the budget will pay for everything else

We can start to do something about the budget problem today or we can wait several years until the weight of the debt collapses the government and forces harsh cost cutting measures as has happened in some European countries.

Changes must be made!

From my perspective, the federal government should start focusing on several areas before it looks at my entitlements –

1. Get rid of the illegal aliens – they're using resources they didn't earn. I've seen estimates of illegals cost to the entitlements system ranging as high as 350 billion each and every year. Businesses that employ illegals should be heavily fined and maybe sent to jail. I recently heard on the radio that they cost Massachusetts governments more than 2 billion each year.
2. Cut the size of government – we don't need the EPA dictating that we will pay more to heat our homes because of they think we're the cause of global warming. We don't need the FDA hindering our access to cheaper generic drugs that have been approved and in use in Europe for years. We don't need an education or energy department at all – they do nothing and cost billions doing it. Foreign aid is money we can no longer afford to pay out to dictators who hoard it in a Swiss bank account.
3. Entitlement fraud should be sought out and harshly punished. I've seen estimates that Medicare and welfare fraud is costing between 25 and 50 billion a year.

Only after these measures have been taken should the federal government look at the entitlements I've paid for by working all of my life by paying into them and serving my country.

**CH. 57 MEETINGS**

Third Tuesdays of each month

Except July & August  
**Meeting time - 6:30PM**  
**5-7 Taunton Green**  
**Taunton, MA.**

**MEETING DATES**

- January 18, 2011
- February 15, 2011
- March 15, 2011
- April 19, 2011
- May 17, 2011
- June 21, 2011

**RECENTLY DEPARTED**  
**COMRADES**

**Arthur Gamache**

**STOLEN VALOR UPDATE**

Although the courts have ruled that the Stolen Valor act violated the First Amendment by prohibiting people from falsely claiming they had received certain military decorations or medals, a prohibition against wearing unearned medals was not affected – So a person can legally lie about his or her service, but not legally wear unearned military decorations.

**PRIZE DRAWING**  
**UPDATE**

We have a \$25.00 door prize drawing at each meeting. Every member in attendance has a chance to win You must be in attendance and present when the prize is drawn

**PRIZE DRAWINGS**

**\$25.00 Attendance Door Prize:**  
March – Ed Hall  
April - Francis Creney

**57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

**SENSITIVITY**

"Those who are sensitive often feel weak. Those who feel strong are often insensitive. Some people are sensitive to themselves but insensitive to others. They often feel the others are "bad guys. " Those who are sensitive to others but not to themselves often end up feeling "poor me".



Some conclude it's better not to be sensitive, because sensitivity brings pain. They shut off. But mind you , if you are not sensitive, you will lose all the finer things in life, too - intuition, beauty and the ecstasy of love.

Insensitive people usually do not recognize their weakness and those who are sensitive do not recognize that their sensitivity is their strength. This path and this Knowledge make you strong and sensitive.

Sensitivity is intuition. Sensitivity is compassion. Sensitivity is love. Sensitivity is real strength: calmness, endurance, silence, non-reactiveness, confidence, faith -- and a smile.

**SALUTING THE FLAG**

Can a member of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform render the military salute during hoisting, lowering or passing of the flag.

Yes!

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008 (Public Law 110-181) was signed by the President on 28 January 2008 and included a section (Section 594) addressing this issue.

According to the law, "all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their head dress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes."

**NEW SCHOOL PRAYER**

This "now" generation prayer was sent to me in an email. It's about a new prayer a student wrote for our schools – no comment needed:

Now I sit me down in school  
Where praying is against the rule  
For this great nation under God  
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If scripture now the class recites,  
It violates the Bill of Rights.  
And anytime my head I bow  
Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green,  
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene..  
The law is specific, the law is precise.  
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall  
May offend someone with no faith at all..  
In silence alone we must meditate,  
God's name is prohibited by the state.

It's ok to cuss and dress like freaks,  
Pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks...  
They've outlawed guns, but first the Bible.  
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,  
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.  
It's not PC to teach right from wrong,  
We're taught such 'judgments' don't belong..

We can get condoms and birth controls  
Study witchcraft, vampires, totem poles..  
But Ten Commandments are not allowed,  
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,  
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.  
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:  
Should I be shot; My soul please take!



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**MONEY SAVERS**

1. Mutual Bank is offering their exclusive for veterans "Completely Free Checking Account" by having your benefits check directly deposited into your account. Here are the freebies you get: - Free debit card, free ATM usage worldwide, free online banking and bill pay, free personalized checks, bonus rates with companion savings or CD, reduced loan rates and a free safe deposit box.

2. Thanks to DAV member Fran Creney for the following: You can get a 15% discount off of your monthly bill if you are a veteran using Verizon for your cell phone service. All you need to do is take a copy of your DD214 to a Verizon Company Store and tell them you would like to have the Vets Discount. If they play dumb, tell them it's discount code 117818.

**PURPLE HEART ELIGIBILITY BROADENED**

The Army will allow more battlefield concussions to be eligible for a Purple Heart, embracing the latest scientific findings that even brief periods of dizziness or headaches are evidence of the wound. The new rules spell out precisely what constitutes a concussion, with symptoms such as any momentary loss of consciousness or memory, dizziness, headache, nausea or light sensitivity. Medical treatment, also required for the medal, is defined by the rules to include merely rest and Tylenol. More than 80,000 GIs have suffered concussions since 2001, many in combat and often from exposure to roadside bomb blasts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The figure dwarfs the 26,000 Purple Hearts given to soldiers for other wounds in the two wars. How many concussion injuries will qualify for the award remains uncertain.

The Marine Corps awards a Purple Heart only for a concussion that causes a loss of consciousness, New standards have been proposed that could broaden the definition, much as the Army has done,

**CHAPTER 57 VAMC PARTY PROGRAM**  
**VA BUILDING 2 PIZZA PARTY'S**

The schedule for this program, which is held in Building #2 at the Brockton VA Hospital on Belmont Street in Brockton, MA (Just off Route 24), on the fourth Tuesday of each month as follows;

- 01/25/2011
- 02/22/2011
- 03/22/2011
- 04/26/2011
- 05/24/2011
- 06/28/2011 Ice Cream Social
- No JULY, AUG, SEPT**
- 10/25/2011
- 11/22/2011
- 12/27/2011

We meet at 6:00 – 6:15pm at the entrance to Building #2, the night of the program. Please join us in helping other veterans

**WALK WITH US**

We are still looking for and Honor Guard members. We hope to be able to perform rifle volleys with the M-1 Rifles at ceremonies. Please contact The Chapter Quarters at 508-823-0409 The Honor Guard and Color Guard will perform as a Unit

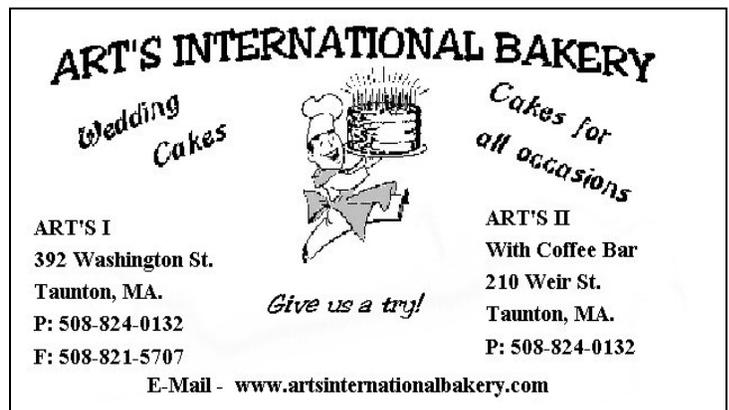
We are in need of help in a variety ways at our headquarters. If you can spare some time wallpapering, and painting call Norm at 508- 823-0409

You have given of yourselves in the past. You can still serve you fellow veterans and countrymen, just in a different way than before.



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**WHY VETERANS MUST BE VIGILANT**

Out of the 535 members of the new Congress, just 25 in the Senate and 87 in the House have served in the active-duty or reserve forces. That’s 21% of all members of congress who have served in the military - compare that to 1969, when 75% of those in Congress had served. Critics say the loss of the perspective brought by those who have military experience is damaging to policymaking, particularly when the nation is engaged in two complex wars.

Editors note: Consider the lack of perspective the non-veteran legislators will have when it comes to the VA budget and Vets programs and the negative impact multiple tours are having on our deployed military forces and their families. We’ve fought hard and long to get the benefits our military service has earned – let’s not allow Congress to take those benefits away.

**“ENTITLEMENTS” IN THE BULLS EYE**

It’s common knowledge that the budget deficit won’t come down much without cuts in entitlements. And Republican members of the House Appropriations Committee are asking President Barack Obama to address that need. The \$100 billion in spending cuts the committee recently agreed upon apply to discretionary spending, which makes up only 16 percent of the federal budget. Committee member Steve LaTourette, R-Ohio, noted that despite all the “gnashing of teeth,” the cuts are “small potatoes” compared to entitlement spending.

The government is borrowing money to pay for entitlements, so the interest on the borrowed debt of about 8.7 trillion (as of today) is also costing a sizable portion of the budget. How soon before they can’t borrow money to pay for entitlements? We need reform, but it must be sensible and must address such issues as illegal aliens and welfare fraud.

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**TRICARE CUTS IN THE NEWS**

The President’s Bipartisan National Commission of Fiscal Responsibility and Reform has revived itself as The Moment of Truth Project to keep their recommendations before the public. They spoke about the need to have everything on the table meaning Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and Defense along with domestic discretionary spending. But only one named program was directly attacked for excessive spending - TRICARE - stating it cost retirees only \$470 a year to medically cover themselves and their families! (What he meant was TRICARE Prime for military retirees between the ages of 38 and 64. He said that when he asked Secretary of Defense Gates why he did not raise it to \$5000 a year with a \$500 co-pay the SecDef said that the Veteran Service Organizations would tear us to shreds.

According to a report released 28 FEB by the Center for American Progress (CAP), the cost of military health care will exceed \$52B in 2012, if left unchecked. That’s a 300 percent increase over the last decade.

**MEANWHILE THE POLITICIANS TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER AT THE EXPENSE OF CAREER VETERANS**

Earlier this month, the Secretary of Defense appointed John Baldacci, the former Democratic governor of Maine, to head up work within the Department of Defense on military health care reform. The announcement of the newly created \$165,300 salaried political appointment for the former governor met with an immediate call for elimination of the position. Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Military Personnel, Rep. Joe Wilson, called the position unnecessary saying it diverts scarce resources from the military health care system and duplicates the job taxpayers already pay Under Secretary of Personnel Clifford L. Stanley and Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs Jonathan Woodson for oversight of health. The appointment to head up military health-care reform also brought growing concern about additional, radical change in store for TRICARE—the most important non-cash benefit earned in a 20 or more year career in uniformed service. Baldacci, a four-term U.S. Congressman and former two term governor, did not serve in the military nor did he serve on the Armed Services Committee while in Congress. In his run for reelection in 2006, Baldacci won with 38 percent of the vote in a four person race. As governor, he established a statewide comprehensive health reform system, which has received intense criticism within the State.

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**WE MUST KEEP WRITING OUR REPS**

All of the Military Veterans Organizations serve at least two purposes. One is philanthropic; to serve soldiers, seamen or veterans and their families, or their spouses and orphans. The other is political; to ensure that soldiers, seamen and veterans are recognized by the government for their service and compensated for that service where due; and to ensure that the families or spouses and orphans are compensated for the service of that soldier, seamen or veteran.

Whether at the grass roots level or nationally, each of these individual organizations represent millions of veterans and wield much political power through their ability to get their members to support those politicians who support the veterans agenda. In hard economic times, the task of coming up with a comprehensive and unified agenda becomes very hard, since we want to protect earned benefits from the budget cutting knife. At both state and federal level we must make sure our voices are heard – not only in support of our own agenda, but against those programs that, in our opinion, harm our country while using up valuable resources that would be better spent on Veterans issues and American infrastructure.

Would you rather see limited resources going toward the support of illegal aliens while your benefits were being cut to “save money”? Would you rather see those limited resources being sent as foreign aid to some third world dictatorship where the money would be hoarded by some petty tyrant, or would you see it spent on such infrastructure as new schools or hospitals?

You can fight back by letting your Senators and Representative know that you will not support them if they vote to cut your benefits before they cut government and government spending to the bare bone. Cut government, not benefits to people who have earned those benefits through hard work and sacrifice. Our financial life and the economic future of our grandchildren is at stake and must be protected.

The letter is the most popular choice of communication with a congressional office. If you decide to write a letter, here are some helpful suggestions that will improve the effectiveness of the letter:

- Make it legible and neat. Legible handwritten letters and well-typed letters are both effective.
- Think about your letter as having three paragraphs, or parts. The opening part should clearly state your position and why you hold it. Urge the Member of Congress to take specific action (e.g. vote for/against a particular bill or amendment; co-sponsor a bill; etc.) The second part should give more information on the bill/action in question and evidence supporting your position. The third part should be a brief summary and provide final encouragement. When possible, somewhere in your letter you should also try to thank your Member.

Senator John Kerry  
218 Russell Bldg.  
Second Floor  
Washington DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-2742

Senator Scott Brown  
317 Russell Senate Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-4543

Representative Barney Frank  
2252 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-5931

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHAPTER 57'S  
ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUILDING FUND**

This fund is to be used to cover administrative and building needs. It is totally separate from the Forget-Me-Not funds. We will put this column in each newsletter to recognize those that have contributed to this important fund. This drive is on going and our members are responding. Please consider donating to this fund.

**CONTRIBUTORS**

**\$250 to 500**

Mort Morin

**\$1 to \$100**

InMemory of Christos L. Koravos  
Charles & Maryellen Wasylak  
Joan Hawkes  
Willaim & Carol Ducharme  
James Gray  
Kenneth & Cheryl Morse  
William Franks

Chapter 57 is very grateful for the support of the Administrative and Building Fund. These donations provide a place not only where help with claims is available, but also to have a place to interact with the wives and widows, as well.

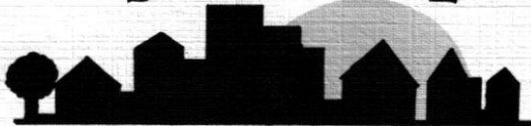
Your donations are needed on an ongoing basis to ensure we have a properly maintained home for OUR Chapter.

**Military Veterans Suicide  
It ain't just the guys!**

A new study has found that the suicide rate among female U.S. military veterans is nearly three times higher than among civilian women. The study is the first general population study of suicide risk among U.S. female veterans and is published in the December issue of Psychiatric Services. A summary of the study is available on the Psychiatric Services website. The study concluded that the high rate of suicide among women veterans alerts clinicians and caregivers to be aware of warning signs and helpful prevention resources.

**VA FAILING WOMAN VETS?**

An American Legion Survey indicates that female veterans still face significant frustration getting medical care, even in Veterans Affairs facilities with female-specific services. VA Officials said they've made efforts in recent years to address female veterans issues but acknowledged more work needs to be done.

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**FREEDOM ISN'T FREE**

I watched the flag pass by one day. It fluttered in the breeze.  
A young Marine saluted it, and then he stood at ease.  
I looked at him in uniform; so young, so tall, so proud.  
With hair cut square and eyes alert, he'd stand out in any crowd.  
I thought how many men like him had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil; how many mothers' tears?  
How many pilots' planes shot down? How many died at sea?  
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves? No, freedom isn't free.  
I heard the sound of Taps one night, when everything was still.  
I listened to the bugler play and felt a sudden chill.  
I wondered just how many times that Taps had meant 'Amen.'  
When a flag had draped a coffin of a brother or a friend.  
I thought of all the children, of the mothers and the wives,  
of fathers, sons and husbands with interrupted lives.  
I thought about a graveyard at the bottom of the sea.  
Of unmarked graves in Arlington. No, freedom isn't free.

**ARE YOU OVERWEIGHT?**

According to the VA, more than 70 percent of Veterans are overweight. Being overweight has a lot of negative health implications.  
MOVE is a national weight management program specifically made for Veterans. The Brockton VA has a MOVE program. The MOVE weight management program consists of Veterans who support each other. They have been through the same things in the past and it has been shown that peer support helps result in improved chances. Vets who join MOVE tend to have a higher percentage who meet weight loss goals.

**POSTAGE RATES**

New first-class stamps will no longer have a denomination on their face. That means the new stamps you buy next year can be used to mail a letter or pay a bill no matter how many times the first-class rate goes up. Every first-class stamp will be a "Forever" stamp -- those denomination-free stamps that first appeared in APR 07. The change is expected to debut with a new stamp issued on 22 JAN. We can see several pluses in this:  
• You won't have to mess with 1 or 2-cent stamps whenever rates go up so you can use up your non-Forever first-class stamps.  
• You'll no longer have to choose between the practical but boring Forever stamp and the more festive 44-cent stamps the post office sells.  
• You won't have to anticipate every postal rate increase and plan your stamp supply accordingly.

**THE BRONZE STAR**



The Bronze Star Medal may be awarded by the Secretary of a military department or the Secretary of Homeland Security with regard to the Coast Guard when not operating as a service in the Navy, or by such military commanders, or other appropriate officers as the Secretary concerned may designate, to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard of the United States, after December 6, 1941, distinguishes, or has distinguished, himself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight—

- (a) while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;
- (b) while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- (c) while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

The acts of heroism are of a lesser degree than required for the award of the Silver Star. The acts of merit or acts of valor must be less than that required for the Legion of Merit but must nevertheless have been meritorious and accomplished with distinction. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded only to service members in combat who are receiving imminent danger pay. The award may be made to each member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after 6 December 1941, was cited in orders or awarded a certificate for exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy after 7 December 1941. For this purpose, an award of the Combat Infantryman Badge or Combat Medical Badge is considered as a citation in orders.

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**Mind over Matters**

Two doctors, a psychiatrist and a proctologist, opened an office in a small town and put up a sign reading:  
 "Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones: Hysterias and Posteriors."  
 The town council was not happy with the sign, so the doctors changed it to read, "Schizoids and Hemorrhoids."  
 This was not acceptable either, so in an effort to satisfy the council, they changed the sign to "Catatonics and High Colonics."  
 No go.  
 Next, they tried "Manic Depressives and Anal Retentives." Thumbs down again.  
 Then came "Minds and Behinds." Still no good.  
 Another attempt resulted in "Lost Souls and Butt Holes."  
 Unacceptable again!  
 So they tried "Analysis and Anal Cysts." Not a chance.  
 "Nuts and Butts?" No way.  
 "Freaks and Cheeks?" Still no go.  
 "Loons and Moons?" Forget it.  
 Almost at their wit's end, the doctors finally came up with: "Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones, Odds and Ends."  
 Everyone loved it.

**Why's & If's**

Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?  
 Why is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'?  
 Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?  
 Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?  
 Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?  
 Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?  
 If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?  
 If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

**MISSING IN ACTION?**

Paul Newman founded the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for children stricken with cancer, AIDS, and blood diseases. One afternoon, he and his wife, Joanne Woodward, stopped by to have lunch with the kids. A counselor at the lunch table, suspecting the young patients wouldn't know Newman was a famous movie star, explained, "That's the man who made this camp possible. Maybe you've seen his picture on his salad dressing bottle?"  
 Blank stares. "Well, you've probably seen his face on his lemonade carton." An eight-year-old girl perked up. 'How long was he missing?'



**A TATTERED FLAG STORY WITH A GOOD ENDING**

A U.S. veteran in Florida was facing a criminal charge after he removed a tattered American flag from a local business. Karl Baldner will head to court this month to face petty larceny charges for removing a damaged flag from a local business last summer. Baldner, who served a decade in the U.S. Army, said he saw an American flag – more than 50 percent of it missing – hanging over a local real estate business last August. The business owner, John Granfield, reportedly told police that Baldner "stormed" into his office a month before he removed the flag, ordering Granfield to take it down. Granfield said he told Baldner that the country was going through a "difficult time" and he felt as if the flag "accurately depicts our present situation,".  
 Granfield reportedly decided to file charges after he returned from a vacation to find the flag missing – with a note in its place that allegedly called Granfield a "disgrace to the nation." Baldner had expected to hear from Granfield but instead heard from a deputy with the Orange County Sheriff's Office who asked if he was the man who took the flag. When he answered that indeed he was, the deputy told him that a report was being filed with the State Attorney's Office charging him with petty larceny.  
 A year passed before Baldner received a summons saying he has been charged with petty theft. Baldner said he was offered a plea deal but refused, saying he'd rather go to jail. Orange-Osceola State Attorney Lawson Lamar's Office said that the State will not prosecute Baldner stating, "Even though the facts alleged could constitute a theft, this case involves not only theft, but fundamental issues of free speech and overarching patriotic issues. Based on prior statements of the defendant and consultation with the victim, I believe the two parties are capable of reaching an amicable resolution in this matter."

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### **Future Problems for Military Recruiting**

75% of today's pool of 17 to 24-8 year-olds are ineligible to serve. According to a report published by the nonprofit Education Trust, almost one in four high school students who try to join the Army fail its entrance exam. The Army requires a minimum score of 31 out of 99 on the first stage of the three-hour Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. Potential Marine, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard recruits need higher minimum scores, which are 32, 35, 36 and 40, respectively. The report adds to a growing worry among military recruiting commanders and civilian education leaders that the pool of young people qualified for military service is shrinking. The services are meeting their recruiting goals-primarily due to the economy-but recruiting officials admit that 75% of today's pool of 17 to 24-8 year-olds are ineligible for military service due to aptitude, fitness, health and/or criminal records.

### **DAV Member Lauded**

The bridge on state highway 140 spanning the Bay Colony railroad tracks in the city of Taunton will be named the "FERDINAND MEDEIROS POW BRIDGE" in honor of our own Ferdinand Medeiros who was held prisoner of war during World War II and was also a councilor to the city of Taunton. A Ceremony will be held in May.

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

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### **Massachusetts Vets Affairs Boss Fired**

Gov. Deval Patrick recently fired state Secretary of Veterans Affairs Thomas Kelley, a 71-year-old Vietnam War veteran and Congressional Medal of Honor winner. Kelly will be replaced on an acting basis by Undersecretary of Veterans' Services Coleman Nee, a Gulf War veteran. Patrick called Kelley "a true American hero whose contributions to the commonwealth and to the nation run deep". The official explanation for removal was that Patrick wanted to take the agency in a new direction.

**Editors note:** When I see someone who has a record of fighting for Veterans being fired and replaced with someone who will "take the agency in a new direction", it scares me. I remember that Gov Patrick tried to shut down a veterans clinic due to funding problems while, at the same time, attempting to get in-state tuition benefits for illegal aliens and I wonder what his motives are; could this possibly be a move to clear the way for someone who will start cutting Veterans Services programs and benefits. I ask everyone to stay alert to this potential problem and to mention your concern to our State Senator Marc Pacheco, who, in my opinion, does have a pretty good history of Veterans support. Senator Pacheco maintains an office at 4 Court Street in Taunton – his phone number is 508-822-3000