



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

**Taunton, MA 02780**

**Website:**

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**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
Officer of The Day	James Zahar
Sergeant At Arms	Stephen Horton
Srvc Officer Dir	Mort Morin
Quartermaster	Norman Willoughby
Legislative Officer	Bill Blight
Armorer	Mort Morin

**July/August 2010**

**Volume 8 Number 2**

**Page 1**

**COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

Wow!!! I've accomplished many things that needed doing.. Been in office over a month and I haven't been assassinated, been through a State Convention without error; gotten the Chapter Service Officers covering the office every day of the week; hooked up the downstairs air conditioner, etc. All in all, things are moving right along.

One thing that has impressed me a lot is the support shown by officers and members. I'm beginning to realize that the title, Commander, is just a title. The job, position, office - whatever you call it - means nothing without the assistance that the organization gives.

Been in office for a month - Adj. Paul Waldron, Treas. Pete Fox have paid the bills and handled the correspondence. I was kept informed; but they did the work. State Convention - PCDR Mort Morin was by my side showing me the ins-and-outs so that Chapter 57 was recognized for your good works. Chapter Service Officers - you've got Jim Andrade, SVC Frank Ardita, Art Brownell; John Fielding, Ed Hall, Lori Mathias, Chap. Don Ryan with PCDR Morin riding herd as the lead Service Officer. The air conditioner -well, here again, we start repeating names - Brownell and Morin teaming up with QTMR Norm Willoughby to get the job done.

I ask all of you to chip in and continue to give me the support that's been shown up to date. WE have to keep our Forget-Me-Not drive going. Without it we will be hard pressed to serve our wounded warriors of past and current wars. WE have to support our efforts to reorganize and clean up the second floor and basement; this means WE are going to have to volunteer time, effort and money. WE have to see that our ranks are full when we make our visits to Brockton VAMC. WE must support our chapter activities, like the cook-out, kayaking and fishing trips; which are designed to foster improved morale, create healthy activities and sponsor a friendly get together that reduces stress and depression. WE - do you get the idea? WE are us and We have a responsibility to our less fortunate veterans and their families, our chapter, our families and ourselves. Please, continue your support.

Our summer program is almost over with its chapter cookout and other seasonal activities. Our annual Forget-Me-Not drive has already started. Please chip in. Chapter 57 covers a large territory and has over a thousand potential members; recruit them, welcome them and work with them. We have to keep active if we are to serve our country's Wounded Warriors and their dependents.

**WE'VE BEEN BUSY ALL SUMMER**

Although Chapter 57 has not had any meetings in July and August, the Chapter has been very busy offering Veterans Services Officer help every weekday throughout the summer, along with Honor Guard activities. We also participated in Fourth of July celebrations where many local, state and federal politicians showed up to pay homage to all Veterans as well as the 234<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States of America. The “usual suspects” continued to make improvements to the “new” building. The Chapter also had a fishing trip in July as well as the annual cookout in August. The camaraderie enjoyed at Chapter 57 is outstanding – please join us as we meet again on September 21<sup>st</sup>, the third Tuesday of the month, every month until next summer.

**LET FREEDOM RING**

The theme for this Fourth of July was “Let Freedom Ring”. Many of the local, state and federal politicians showed up to pay their respects to Old Glory and to our great nation on its 234<sup>th</sup> Birthday.



I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**CH. 57 MEETINGS**

Third Tuesdays of each month

Except July &amp; August

**Meeting time - 6:30PM****5-7 Taunton Green****Taunton, MA.****MEETING DATES****September 21, 2010****October 19, 2010****November 16, 2010****RECENTLY DEPARTED**  
**COMRADES****NO  
NEWS  
IS  
GOOD  
NEWS  
IN  
THIS  
SECTION****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:****57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**  
**MOTIVATION**

How to get motivated to do things is one of the hardest things for some of us to do. We find it difficult at times and sometimes seems impossible to accomplish things. We got to remember that nothing is impossible. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure and it is our light and not our darkness that frightens us most. We were born to accomplish, that is within us and not just in some but all. As we let our own light shine and allow others to do the same, we our liberated from our own fear and our presence liberate others.

Theodore Roosevelt once said: "Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat."

The best motivation come from within, so motivate yourself every day

Chaplain: Don Ryan.

**CAMP LEJEUNE WATER UPDATE**

Veterans who think they might have been affected by contaminated water at Camp Lejeune can apply for service connection health benefits from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-526, Veterans Application for Compensation and/or Pension. The VA recommends that if you have any of the following material, please attach it to your application:

- DD214 or equivalent)
  - Dependency records (marriage & birth certs)
  - Medical evidence (doctor & hospital reports)
- Veterans who have applied for benefits related to water contamination at Camp Lejeune say they strongly recommend a medical nexus letter from a doctor.

For more information, contact your local VA office or your local veterans service organization, or go online to

<http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/>

The Marine Corps also has a website:

<https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater/>

**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

Our Forget-Me-Not, annual fund raiser is in need of volunteers to help us in various locations. This is our most important fund raising event of the year. 100% of the funds collected go to support Disabled Veterans in a variety of ways and in particular the donation of clothing, hygiene items and the pizza parties at the VAMC Brockton. We hope to see some new members involved in this heart of the DAV event.


**Call Pete at 508- 823-0409**

If you would like to assist Chapter 57 at **Homes For Our Troops**, Call Sgt. at Arms, Steve Horton, for more info at **508- 823-0409**.

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.


The Chapter is getting more and more active and even though we see new members we are finding that we just don't have enough people to cover all the events and activities. This Memorial Day we are splitting our forces to cover three parades, In Middleboro, Dighton/Rehoboth, and Taunton and We really feel bad when we must turn down request for invitations to appear at various functions or are spread so thin that it seems that we are only a few. Sometimes we are covering two or three things, all at the same time! We need you to help.



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#### FOURTH OF JULY ON THE TAUNTON GREEN

Here are a few pictures from our Fourth of July activities that we celebrated on the Green.



Let Freedom Ring!



#### CHAPTER 57 ANNUAL COOKOUT

Chapter 57 DAV Commander Leroy Crossman hosted the annual cookout on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. A great time was had by everyone, Hot dogs, hamburgers, steak tips, garden salad and potato salad were served. About 60 baskets containing all sorts of goodies were handed out as door prizes. There were a bunch of raffle prizes from quilted blankets to musical waving flag plaques. Thanks to Leroy and all of his helpers for the great time.



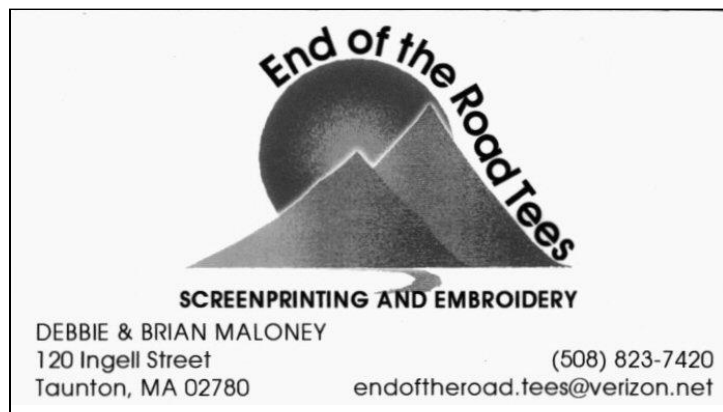
Hey Pete – it doesn't get any better than this.




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### New Procedures for Claims Based on Herbicide Exposure in Thailand and Korea

Effective immediately, when regional offices (ROs) receive disability claims based on exposure to tactical herbicides, such as Agent Orange, from Veterans who served in Thailand or Korea during the Vietnam era, there is no longer a requirement to send an inquiry to the C&P Service

Agent Orange Mailbox. Development inquiries can be sent directly to the Army and Joint Services Records Research Center (JSRRC) when the available evidence does not indicate tactical herbicide exposure. This will reduce processing time and provide better service to Veterans.

Herbicide related claims from Veterans with Thailand service After reviewing documents related to herbicide use in Vietnam and Thailand, C&P Service has determined that there was significant use of herbicides on the fenced in perimeters of military bases in Thailand intended to eliminate vegetation and ground cover for base security purposes.

Evidence of this can be found in a declassified Vietnam era Department of Defense (DOD) document titled Project CHECO Southeast Asia Report: Base Defense in Thailand. Therefore, when herbicide related claims from Veterans with Thailand service are received, RO personnel should now evaluate the treatment and personnel records to determine whether the Veteran's service activities involved duty on or near the perimeter of the military base where the Veteran was stationed.

### GOING TO WAR

Just before I was deployed to Iraq, I sat my eight-year-old son down and broke the news to him. 'I'm going to be away for a long time,' I told him. 'I'm going to Iraq.' 'Why?' he asked. 'Don't you know there's a war going on over there?'



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### MEDAL of HONOR



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The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration awarded by the United States government. It is bestowed on members of the United States armed forces who distinguish themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States." Due to the nature of its criteria, it is often awarded posthumously.


Members of all branches of the U.S. military are eligible to receive the medal, and each service has a unique design with the exception of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, which both use the Navy's medal. The Medal of Honor is often presented personally to the recipient or, in the case of posthumous awards, to next of kin, by the President of the United States. Due to its honored status, the medal is afforded special protection under U.S. law.

As the award citation includes the phrase "in the name of Congress", it is sometimes erroneously called the Congressional Medal of Honor, however the official title is the Medal of Honor.

There are two distinct protocols for awarding the Medal of Honor. The first and most common is nomination by a service member in the chain of command, followed by approval at each level of command. The other method is nomination by a member of Congress (generally at the request of a constituent) and approval by a special act of Congress. In either case, the Medal of Honor is presented by the President on behalf of the Congress.

The Medal of Honor confers special privileges on its recipients.

- His or her name entered on the Medal of Honor Roll.
- Entitled to receive a special pension.
- Enlisted recipients are entitled to a uniform allowance.
- Special entitlements to air transportation
- Special identification cards and exchange privileges.
- Eligibility for interment at Arlington National Cemetery.
- Their children eligible to attend the United States military academies.
- A Medal of Honor Flag.



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## **AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ VETS** **VA ADMITS BURN PIT AILMENTS ARE REAL**

A VA training letter is being distributed to VA regional offices to be used to determine military benefits for veterans. It represents a reverse on the denial by the military that returning veterans' health problems are linked to burn pit smoke in Iraq and Afghanistan. Burn pits, overseen by military contractors, are used to incinerate all waste at various bases including metals, food, medical, chemical, pesticides, paints and plastics, which are doused with jet fuel and set ablaze. Personnel at the various bases were exposed daily to toxic smoke and fumes. Returning veterans are reporting neurological and respiratory problems as well as cancers and blaming their ills on the burn pits. This Precedent Setting letter is the first time the VA has addressed potential battlefield exposures while the troops remained in the combat zone, as well as the first time VA sent out guidance about a potential war-related health issue without a congressional mandate or a recommendation from a large health organization. The letter, titled, "Environmental Hazards in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Other Military Installations," was sent to all VA regional offices. "Service members can be exposed to environmental hazards in the course of their military duties, which may result in adverse health effects," the letter states. "Numerous environmental hazards in Iraq, Afghanistan and other military installations that could potentially present health risks to service members and veterans have been identified." The letter says dioxins, volatile organic compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons have all be found in the burn pit smoke and particulate matter. In Balad, one of the largest bases in Iraq which reportedly burns two tons of material a day, the open pits have been replaced with three incinerators.

### **The following information about burn pit ailments was cut from another source:**

The military suspects that exposure to burn-pit smoke combined with other factors -- such as smoking, proximity to the pit, certain genetic factors or pre-existing conditions could lead to longer-term effects. Certain individuals may be more susceptible because of genetics and pre-existing health conditions. Service members have complained of symptoms ranging from chronic bronchitis, asthma, sleep apnea, chronic coughs and allergy-like symptoms to more severe issues including heart problems, lymphoma and leukemia.

## **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**

**\$1 - \$50**

**\$500 - 750**

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.

### **New Option for Marking Veterans' Graves in** **Private Cemeteries**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is offering bronze medallions to attach to existing, privately purchased headstones or markers, signifying a deceased's status as a Veteran.

"For Veterans not buried in a national or state Veterans cemetery, or those without a government grave marker, VA is pleased to offer this option that highlights their service and sacrifices for our country,"

The new item can be furnished instead of a traditional government headstone or marker for Veterans whose death occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

The medallion is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches and 1 ½ inches in width. Each bronze medallion features the image of a folded burial flag adorned with laurels and is inscribed with the word "Veteran" at the top and the branch of service at the bottom.

Next of kin will receive the medallion, along with a kit that will allow the family or the staff of a private cemetery to affix the medallion to a headstone, grave marker, mausoleum or columbarium niche cover.

More information about VA-furnished headstones, markers and medallions can be found at

<http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmtype.asp>.



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## WHY WE NEED THE "STOLEN VALOR" ACT

Per DOD records, from 1955 through 1975 about 2.8 million men and women served in Vietnam or in the waters off of Vietnam.

In 1995 The American War Library, through a special grant from the DOD, conducted a nationwide survey to determine the number of Americans who claimed to have served either in-country or on a U.S. Navy vessel in Vietnamese waters. The number of respondents totaled 9,815,361. This number was more than three times the number reported by DOD. This survey prompted President Clinton to declassify all WW2, Korea and Vietnam War era intelligence and personnel data so that such claims could be verified or refuted. This in depth study prompted the DOD to increase the number of those who served in Vietnam to slightly over three million men and women.

In 2005, in another DOD approved survey performed by the American War Library, the total number of Americans claiming to be eligible or possessing authorization of the United States Vietnam War Service Medal was 13,695,088; 11,104,005 of Americans claimed to have served in Vietnam (In-Country/In-Waters), and 2,591,083 Americans claimed to have served aboard a U.S. naval vessel in Vietnamese waters.

Largely as a result of this survey, the Stolen Valor Act was passed into law in December, 2005

Also as a result of the American War Library's report to DOD, along with supporting evidence from other reporting agencies or entities, in January 2007, president George W. Bush issued an Executive Order (signed into law, Jan 2007) making it a federal felony for any person to falsely claim, either verbally or textually, to be the recipient of a United States military decoration (medal) or service.

Editors note: I wonder if all of those politicians who've been falsely claiming to be Vietnam Vets will be prosecuted – for some reason I doubt it.

## VIETNAM VETERANS LIFE EXPECTANCY THIS AIN'T GOOD!

In 2008, the American War Library estimated there were about 980,000 surviving Vietnam Veterans; 903,240 will survive by 01 Jan 2010; but, it's estimated that by 01 Jan 2015 the surviving total of Vietnam War veterans will number fewer than 131,000 due to age complicated by accelerated physiologies resulting from herbicide, along with added post-military financial and other stress related factions due to declining economic and environment factors that are projected by other federal agency's that determine their impact on human life expectancy.

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## CHAPTER 57 VAMC PARTY PROGRAM

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), is as follows for the remainder of 2010: Sept 28<sup>th</sup>; Oct 26<sup>th</sup>; Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> and Dec 28<sup>th</sup>.

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.

## ANNUAL FORGET-ME-NOT DRIVE PLANS

The necessary permissions are in place. We are going to need a lot of help in this endeavor. Please don't be bashful about volunteering. The big need is for a lot of people to man the collection points.

The actual drive doesn't begin until August. However, in order to ensure a successful fund raiser the planning begins in January. The money raised during this event is spent solely for the benefit of the Disabled veterans we serve. All of the money raised from the Public goes to direct service and charitable activities for Disabled Veterans and their families.

Yes, there is a separate administrative fund that is used to pay building expenses and for office supplies and equipment. This way we are able to maintain the building and provide services there.

Unlike most veterans groups that have buildings, we do not have a bar, nor are there plans to do so. Our building is dedicated to serving the needs of our members, their widows and orphans. Won't you help us in our efforts to help others? Chapter 57 needs you!

If this message sounds like a plea for help, then my job has been halfway successful. If you'll step up and volunteer time and effort, then my job has been worthwhile. The reward in this is the pleasure that is derived from helping others and in knowing you made a difference in someone's life.

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## **COLA WATCH: VETERANS' COLA FOR 2011 IS TRACKING AT ZERO**

Latest figures indicate there will be no COLA next year for disabled veterans and Social Security recipients.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced the May CPI-W of 214.1 which is an increase of 0.1% from the March CPI-W of 213.9. The May CPI-W of 214.1 is now down .6% from the 2008 COLA base of 215.5. The 2008 COLA base will be used to calculate the 2010 COLA since there was no 2009 COLA as a result of negative inflation from the third quarter of 2008 to the third quarter of 2009.

## **VA HANDBOOK**

The latest edition of the Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents Pamphlet can be obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs online or by mail. It updates the rates for certain federal payments and outlines a variety of programs and benefits for American veterans. Most of the nation's 25 million veterans qualify for some VA benefits, which range from health care to burial in a national cemetery. Veterans may also be eligible for programs providing home loan guaranties, educational assistance, training and vocational rehabilitation, income assistance pensions, life insurance and compensation for service-connected illnesses or disabilities. In some cases, survivors of veterans may also be entitled to benefits. It describes programs for veterans with specific service experiences, such as prisoners of war or those concerned about environmental exposures in Vietnam or in the Gulf War, as well as special benefits for veterans with severe disabilities. It also provides an overview of programs and services for veterans provided by other federal agencies. It also includes resources to help veterans access their benefits, with a listing of phone numbers, websites, and a directory of VA facilities throughout the country. It can be downloaded at no cost from VA's Web site.

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## **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

John Wayne - Sure I wave the American flag. Do you know a better flag to wave? Sure I love my country with all her faults. I'm not ashamed of that, never have been, never will be."

Winston Churchill - All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.

Rudy Giuliani - What we can borrow from Ronald Reagan... is that great sense of optimism. He led by building on the strengths of America, not running America down.

Barry Goldwater - I would remind you that extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice! And let me remind you also that moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue. -

William Tecumseh Sherman - Every attempt to make war easy and safe will result in humiliation and disaster. -

Will Rogers - I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.

Ronald Reagan - The nine most terrifying words in the English Language are: "I'm from the government and I'm here to help."

Barry Goldwater - To insist on strength is not war-mongering. It is peace-mongering.

Margaret Thatcher - Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't.

Nancy Reagan - I am a big believer that eventually everything comes back to you. You get back what you give out.

Mark Twain - Suppose you were an idiot, and suppose you were a member of Congress; but I repeat myself.

John Wayne - Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway. -

John F Kennedy - Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country -

Ronald Reagan - Don't be afraid to see what you see. -

Winston Churchill - 'We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.'

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## **VOLUNTEERRING IS A HEALTHY ACTIVITY**

Most developed countries in the world have accepted the chronological age of 65 years as a definition of 'elderly' or older person. The elderly can be factored into two groups – healthy and frail.

A UCLA study found that older people who volunteer regularly tend not to become frail.

Frailty is a geriatric condition marked by weight loss, low energy and strength, and low physical activity. UCLA researchers followed 1,072 healthy adults aged 70 to 79 to determine if productive activities -- specifically volunteering, paid work and child care -- prevent the onset of frailty. The study suggests that participating in volunteer activities may prevent frailty in older adults.

The DAV is always looking for volunteers for various activities such as participating in our Honor Guard, helping others file for VA disabilities, visiting the “lock-ins” at the VA every month for a pizza party, participating in community activities such as parades and a host of other activities. Join us and stay healthy.

### **DRAFTED**

In 1965 I was drafted into the Army and had a determination not to make life easy for anyone. During my physical, the doctor asked softly, "Can you read the letters on the wall?"

"What letters?" I answered slyly.

"Good," said the doctor. "You passed the hearing test."

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

---

**Cpl. William F. Reardon Chapter 57  
Disabled American Veterans  
P. O. Box 57  
Taunton, MA 02780**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **DID YOU KNOW**

by Norm Willoughby

This issue has Popular military sayings attributed to the Different Branches of Service. These “mottos” are not intended to offend anyone. They are just jokes.

ARMY: "If the enemy is in range, so are you." - Infantry Journal

MARINE CORPS: "Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do." - Unknown Marine Recruit

NAVY: "Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything." - U.S. Navy Swabbie

AIR FORCE: "Flashlights are tubular metal containers kept in a flight bag for the purpose of storing dead batteries." – Anonymous

COAST GUARD: “We who have done so much with so little for so long can now do anything with nothing.” – Unknown

MERCHANT MARINE: “If it doesn’t work, paint it”— Merchant Naval Engineers

### **THE LAWS OF TYRANNY**

Tyranny Law #1 - Any power that can be abused will be abused.

Tyranny Law #2 - Abuse always expands to fill the limits of resistance to it.

Tyranny Law #3 - If people don't resist the abuses of others, they will have no one to resist the abuses of themselves, and tyranny will prevail.

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