



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

CHAPTER OFFICERS 508 -828-1808

Commander	Mort Morin
Sr. Vice Commander	Leroy Crossman
Jr. Vice Commander	Bruce Crossman
Adjutant	Paul Waldron
Treasurer	Martin Fox
Chaplain	Louie Demers
Officer of The Day	William Laliberte
Sergeant At Arms	Stephen Horton
Service Officer	John Fielding
Service Officer	Mort Morin
Legislative Officer	Martin Fox
Armorer	Frank Arditia

March / April 2008

Volume 5 Number 4

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

We are fast approaching the end of another year. Immediately facing us are nominations, elections and installation. Just a step or two behind these is preparation for our Forget-Me-Not Drive. Right about then we start off with a new year.

Nominations and elections should be a major focus for each of us as individuals as well as for the Chapter as a whole. An election is a situation where you have to weigh your personal feelings against your feelings for the organization. Personally, Joe Shmoe might be your best friend; but, if you elected him would he screw up your organization? Think on this because you will be making your decisions for the next term's officers very shortly.

Our Forget-Me-Not drive is the primary fund raiser for the Chapter. We have got to get solidly behind our campaign leaders. By this time, we have obtained permission from the merchants involved and the selectmen in the various communities we will be *working* in. These are only surface aspects of the campaign. Our face is you in front of the doors at Market Basket, Tedeschi, Wal-Mart and the other locations. You have to be there with your hand out giving a Forget-Me-Not in exchange for a donation. Please get behind Pete Fox and sign up to be a Forget-Me-Not solicitor.

At the Installation Meeting we will be awarding Chapter Jackets to those newer members who have earned one. Let me say, I'm proud when I see someone walking around sporting a Chapter 57 jacket. It means that that individual has made a meaningful contribution to the Chapter. We will have almost half a hundred Chapter 57 jackets floating around greater Taunton. At the same time, we will be awarding Chapter Service Ribbons. These are another form of recognition given to our members for service to "aid and assist worthy wartime disabled veterans, their widows (spouse), their orphans and their dependents" through Chapter 57 activities. Again, I feel proud and honored to be part of this program; in particular when I see two or more ribbons on the DA V cap or the Chapter uniform.

Our Chapter has proven itself to be a leader in the greater Taunton veterans community. We have risen from the dust, so to speak. We have expanded our membership. We publish a regular newsletter. We host a monthly TV program. We regularly visit our less fortunate comrades at the Brockton V AMC. We contribute money and material goods to the veteran community on a regular basis.

We means YOU. Hold your head high. You served your country honorably and you are serving your community and your less fortunate brother now. *Stand proud.*

CHAPTER 57 AND CHAPTER 36 MERGER IS COMPLETED



The former Chapter 36 Building , located in Middleboro.

On 19 February 2008 at 6:30PM, Chapter 36 and Chapter 57 members witnessed the finalizing of merger of the two Chapters. The signing over of the remaining property took place, at the monthly meeting of Chapter 57, in the Elk's Lodge at 119 High Street, in Taunton. Signing the property deed for the Middleboro DAV Corporation were Norman Record, Treasurer of the Corporation. President Francis Creney was unable to be present and signed the deed on 21 February.

The Chapter 36 Corporation was also officially merged with Chapter 57's Corporation on the same dates. Signing the Articles of Consolidation and Merger document for Chapter 36 were President Francis Creney (Signed 21 Feb.) and Clerk Walter Campbell. Signing for the Chapter 57 Corporation were President Morton E. Morin and Clerk Paul M. Waldron.

The deed for the building and land was filed with the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds office in Brockton, MA on Thursday 21 February. The filing of the Corporations Consolidation and Merger Document took place on Monday 25 February 2008 at the Secretary of State's Corporations Division in Boston, MA

The merger document while titled Consolidation and Merger is done so that either the word *consolidation* or *merger* is crossed out. In this case consolidation was crossed out and the document was filed as a merger. With this the filing the Chapter 36 Corporation was dissolved and Chapter 57 became the surviving Corporation.

The process of Merging the two Chapters has been lengthy and involved. It has taken almost a full year to complete. The fact that it was accomplished is a tribute to the dedication of DAV members of both Chapter 36 and Chapter 57. A few names have been mentioned above, however there were many other individuals that lent their support to this undertaking. The William L. Sukefourth Chapter 36 of Middleboro will be long remembered.

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:

January – Norm Willoughby

February - LeRoy Crossman

Membership Prize

(If not present the prize is forfeited).

January – Richard Enright

February – Not present - Not Recorded

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 :

March 18, 2008 - Regular Meeting

April 15, 2008 - Election of Officers

May 20, 2008 - Installation of Off's.

RECENTLY DEPARTED

COMRADES

John Lacy, US Army, WW II

February 2008

Allen L. Windle, US Army,

WW II & KOREA

February 2008

57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can seriously help another without helping himself.

— Charles Dudley Warner, 1873

Now isn't that an interesting

Quote from over a hundred and thirty years ago! That idea of helping others has been with us a lot longer than that. But to find people that had really grasped what helping others can do is really nice to find.

There are many things we derive from helping others. These include; pleasure, happiness, accomplishment, peacefulness, satisfaction, appreciation, understanding and so many other things.

You are probably saying – Sure, but what can one person do? If so just think about how much one little mosquito can do if it gets inside your mosquito netting. Now, that is not to say you are mosquitoes. We as individuals are much smarter and larger than those little things. We are able to think, contribute and work toward individual and group goals. But, like a lone mosquito a lone individual can offer so much.

Can you drive? Can you think? Can you talk? Can you walk? Do you like to be around others? Do you have ideas? Do you have skills. Think about what you can do. Then think about other people that may need help doing these things. You see your really do have something to offer others.

Give it a try and see what you get in return for giving of your time, energy, expertise and skill. We have mentioned the returns above. To be sure they are not monetary, but the returns can make you rich in the things money can't buy. Really consider helping others for your sake as well as theirs.

Call 1-508-824-4920 or 1-774-526-3212. to notify me about the sickness or death of members God Bless until next edition!

Chaplain Lou Demers



WALK ALONG WITH US

It is really great to see the new people coming in to meetings and taking an active role in the Chapter. We have been seeking volunteers for several projects and activities and people are responding.

Our Chapter's work must go on. We have clothing to purchase and personal care items for distribution to Veterans Centers as well as the VA Hospitals. You would be with other members during these volunteer assignments.

Our 2008 VA Medical Center parties are scheduled. We hope to see some new faces this year at these events. This means a lot to the hospitalized Veterans please volunteer its only 11/2 hrs. a month out of your time, that's not asking a lot of you to put a smile on someone's face. All parties begin at 6:30 pm in Bldg. 2. Meet at the front entrance of the building.

Mar. 25, 2008

Apr. 22, 2008

May 27, 2008


June 24, 2008 - Ice cream social last event for 2007/2008 year.

We have opportunities to assist at the **Homes For Our Troops** office in Taunton. Call Sgt. At Arms Steve Horton for more info at 508-339-6587

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 the effort and time our members contribute to serving our fellow wounded warriors and their families. He gets praise from within and without the DAV community as a result of your our accomplishments actions. Keep up the good work and continue helping or disabled.

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OUR CHAPTER'S OWN TV SHOW

"THE FIFTY SHOW"

Cable Access Television-A Forum Unlike Any Other

By Kimberly Matthews 3/10/08

Over the past 2 1/2 years, I've had the pleasure of working with the crew and talent of "The 57 Show" a monthly program which is sponsored and completely produced by members of the Chapter 57 D.A.V. Although the show is taped in Taunton, it is actually seen in 10 different communities. This is made possible by the crew of "The 57 Show", who bring copies of the show to different cable studios throughout the state and by the individual cable studios, who allow the programs to be aired on their channel. Ten communities, with several thousand viewers each equals potentially hundreds of thousands of viewers. Not bad for a local cable television show!

The beauty of cable access television is that it provides a forum unlike any other on T.V., because as a non-profit, we are not trying to "sell" anything. Newspapers need to sell newspapers, news stations want you to watch their channels and their ads. Because of that, these outlets are often objective, where cable access has the freedom to be subjective. A producer can come in and produce a show about anything. Right now, we have 11 shows that are produced in the Taunton studio. Our shows include a program about the history of Taunton, an editorial political show, a folk music show, a community police program, a show assisting victims of domestic violence and a comedy skit show. Each one of these producers had a great idea, thought about what it would take to put together a show and did it.

Cable access provides a forum for people to express ideas, to be creative and to get important messages out to their community as well as neighboring communities. If you are interested in putting on a show, all you really need is a great idea, time and a willingness to learn. Most cable studio offer trainings to those interested in putting on their own shows. I can't tell you how many times someone in the community has told me or one of the show hosts that they saw a program on our channel and got something out of it. The reach of cable access programming is truly amazing. So, if you get the chance, check out your local cable access channel today. You may be pleasantly surprised.

HAS AMERICA SEEN ITS HEYDAY

This past Christmas, while shopping for toys for grandchildren, my wife and I were unable to find any that were made in the USA. Most were made in China or some other country. The manager of a toy store was standing outside his store when I approached. When the manager was asked if he had any toy that were made in the USA, he thought for a minute and then looked at me with a shamed look and said "Er, Ahh, no we don't have any". I told him that, that was a disgrace!

Since then I have become aware that more and more of our consumer products are being made overseas. Take a look at the made in stamps the next time you are in a store. Where has good old American know how gone? If the trend continues we will be saying "Gee, I don't know how!".

Yes we all know about the North American Free Trade Agreement, (NAFTA). This effectively opened our north and south borders to trade with Canada and Mexico as well as others. We saw jobs heading south of the border. We saw the Canadian dollar strengthen and surpass ours in value.

The European Community change to the EU currency. The EURO is now worth, thirty plus cents, more than the US Dollar. We could site some examples of others that are doing better than we are, but, you get the idea.

What is going on? First of all companies are becoming more Global. They outsource contracts to countries that will maximize their profits for their shareholders. Those of us that have experienced computer problems and called for help are likely to find themselves talking with someone in India or the Philippines!

Our salaries have been going up, but so has everything else. The company and government payrolls are at all time highs. The companies can look to countries with cheap labor to keep their profits up. Our local, state and federal governments have begun privatizing some areas, they have traditionally taken care of. It has reached a point that most of our governmental budgets go to pay salaries.

Our infrastructure is crumbling! Roads and bridges built during the 1930 are crumbling. The interstate highway system is in need of constant repair. Local roads are covered with potholes.

Oil and transportation costs are soaring. This is driving up grocery prices as well as other goods and services.

People are loosing their homes because they can't afford the mortgages. Wouldn't it be nice to return to the 1950's and early 60's, when roads were good, gas was 23.9 cents, salaries were lower, groceries cheaper and people seemed friendlier!

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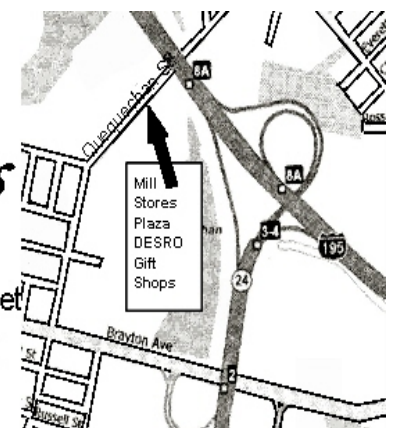
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NEW AIR FORCE CONTRACT FOR REFUELING TANKERS SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY

On February 29 2008. The selection of Los Angeles-based Northrop Grumman and European Aeronautic Defence and Space Co., the maker of Airbus planes, surprised industry and elected officials. Air Force officials said the larger size of the Northrop-EADS aircraft helped tip the balance in its favor. As a result Boeing Aircraft Corporation lost the bid.

Many are saying, why do we have to have our Military aircraft or parts being built by a foreign company! Well there may be more to the surface story. After a little research, one finds that there are also U.S. Senators involved in this fray. Here is a Press Release from Senator Patty Murphy. She is from Washington State *"We are outraged that this decision taps European Airbus and its foreign workers to provide a tanker to our American military. "This is a blow to the American aerospace industry, American workers and America's men and women in uniform. "Boeing has 75 years of experience in building the tankers our military flies. Washington state's workers are second to none and so is their product. "At a time when our economy is hurting, this is a blow not only to our state, but the more than 40 states across the country who would help build this national plane. "We will be asking tough questions about the decision to outsource this contract. We look forward to hearing the Air Force's justification."*

In 2003 The air force originally chose Boeing to supply it with 100 tankers. But Congress cancelled the deal after Senator John McCain pushed an aggressive investigation into the tanker deal. The investigation revealed that an Air Force acquisitions official had held illegal discussions with Boeing, while the deal was still under discussion. Darleen Druyun, former No. 2 acquisition executive for the Air Force, admitted boosting the value of the deal to help Boeing. The tanker scandal claimed the career of former Boeing chief executive Phil Condit, who said *"Boeing is advancing on several of the most important programs in its history and I offered my resignation as a way to put the distractions and controversies of the past year behind us, and to place the focus on our performance, Executive-suite The shenanigans and infighting in the executive suite are not unknown in Corporate America, but the degree to which they pervaded at Boeing is rare. For a company that must negotiate with governments and take responsibility for the safety of the flying public as well as sensitive military contracts, the distractions are particularly troubling. "Ms Druyun and Mike Sears, Boeing's former chief financial officer, were sent to jail.*

This all took place in 2003. Has Boeing changed? Is the awarding of the contract to Boeing's competition a way of punishing Boeing? Boeing has its supporters on Capitol Hill, in Washington. These include Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., a senior member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense who represents a district that is home many Boeing jobs. "I'm very hopeful that on the merits we're going to win." Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.; Duncan Hunter of California, the top Republican on the House Armed Services Committee and former Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, an Illinois Republican. Senators that support Northrop Grumman are from states that would benefit if the contract goes to them. Republican Alabama Senator Richard Shelby Alabama Senators. Jeff Sessions and Richard Shelby, both Republicans, are cheering for the French to come to Mobile, as is Rep. Jo Bonner, R- Ala., who represents the district where Northrop has said it would assemble its tanker.

If the 2003 scandal is being held against Boeing then one should look at the scandal that EADS was involved with in South Africa! France's bourse watchdog AMF sent prosecutors a report on possible insider dealing at EADS in which the French state holds a 15 percent stake. Oh, the "French State", might that be the same as the French Government that refused to support us in Iraq? French President Nicolas Sarkozy pledged to fully investigate whether the government had a hand in a massive insider trading scandal at EADS. In 2003 Michael Woerfel, the German former head of EADS in South Africa, faced corruption charges.

Our Defense Department has become too dependent on foreign suppliers This dependence was made clear back in 1991 during Operation Desert Storm. In the course of that short but intense operation, American officials had to plead with the government of Japan to intervene with a Japanese manufacturer to obtain replacement parts for equipment then being used to expel Saddam Hussein's forces from Kuwait. Wow, imagine that, for a tell tail sign of trouble! We need less foreign suppliers of our defense equipmentPERIOD.


European leaders were elated at the award to Northrop Grumman / EADS. House Leader Nancy Pelosi called for a congressional investigation into the awarding of the contract. This entire affair has the makings of a good book. It includes politics, criminal wrong doing, prison sentences, corporate back stabbing, secret meetings, union issues, the intangible "Made in America" and international relations. As corporations grow more and more into GLOBAL organizations it would seem that we will see more contracts, that involve foreign companies. Might it be smart if we look to bolster our own corporations and keep our contracts for our defense equipment at home, for the sake of our security, instead of helping bolster foreign economies? We also need to monitor Corporations more closely.



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GREAT RESPONSES
EMPIRE BUILDING

When in England at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of empire building by George Bush. He answered by saying, 'Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return. It became very quiet in the room.

ARRIVING IN FRANCE

A group of Americans, retired teachers, recently went to France on a tour. Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on. 'You have been to France before, monsieur?' the customs officer asked sarcastically. Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously. "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready." The American said, 'The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it.' "Impossible. Americans always have to show your passports on arrival in France!" The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained. "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find any Frenchmen to show it to." NOT A SOUND!

LET'S NOT FORGET THE PAST
MARCH

- 2 March 1965 - Vietnam War officially begins.
- 3 March 1931 – "Star Spangled Banner" made our National Anthem.
- 17 March – Evacuation Day British Troops leave Boston
- 17 March – Happy St. Patrick's Day
- 19 March 2003 – Operation Iraqi Freedom Begins

APRIL

- 4 April 1818 – Congress limits 13 stripes to the flag.
- 6 April 1917 – US enters World War I
- 6 April – Army Day
- 15 April – INCOME TAX DUE
- 25 April 1898 – Spanish American War begins.

COMRADE BOB DOHERTY'S CELEBRATES



Comrade Bob Doherty's Birthday Cake

At our Chapter Meeting in February Comrade Bob Doherty was presented a cake, by several members of the Chapter. The main reason was that it was Bob's birthday. There was also a secondary reason for bob to celebrate.

As far as the birthday is concerned, we don't want to reveal his age, exactly. Therefore what we will say is that he is getting very close to the time mentioned in Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Now as you recall that mentions "Four Score and seven". He'll celebrate that down the road a ways. The Birthday was a busy day for him, between friends, family and his DAV comrades.

The second reason for Bob to be celebrating was that it was, shortly, going to be the sixty eight anniversary of his having to bail out of his B-17 of the Plains of Waterloo in Belgium. He was captured by German troops and sent away to the first of several German camps that he was in, for the remainder of the war. Now as everyone knows it is especially difficult to be a prisoner of war. He was told many times by his captors "For you, ze var est over". Well it finally was over 19 the spring of 1945, when he was liberated by the elements of General Patton's troops.

The cake was without a doubt one of the richest ever. The top was decorated with a frosting US Flag, a frosting bomber aircraft, along with frames and flowers of frosting frosted. There was almost an inch of frosting on the cake.

In talking with Bob, after the meeting he said he was totally surprised. He was very grateful for the surprise cake and said he had had a wonderful day.

On the anniversary of being captured he said that on returning to Taunton from a Doctor's visit he stopped at church and went in to say a prayer of thanks to God for the extra sixty four years.



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CHAPTER 57 DONATES TO THE FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION



Pictured above is the Fisher House on the grounds of the VAMC in Albany, New York.

The Fisher House Foundation is another organization that is meeting the needs of Wounded and disabled veterans and their families. Chapter 57 approved a donation of \$1000 to the Fisher House Foundation, at our last regular meeting. A fisher House is scheduled for the West Roxbury VAMC. This will provide additional opportunities for volunteers to assist the families of Veterans that are being treated in that facility.

The Foundation is non-profit and spends 90+ percent of the money it receives on its programs. This is a very high percentage as compared with other organizations. By donating to them we fulfill one of our mandates of helping the families of Disabled Veterans.

The following paragraphs are from the Website of The Fisher House Foundation. They give a brief description of what they are all about.

Overview: A Fisher House is “a home away from home” for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers. The homes are normally located within walking distance of the treatment facility or have transportation available. There are 38 Fisher Houses located on 18 military installations and nine VA medical centers. Five more houses are under construction.

Description: Typically, the houses are 5,000+ to 16,000 square foot homes donated by Fisher House Foundation. Each house is designed to provide eight to 21 suites. All are professionally furnished and decorated in the tone and style of the local region. The houses can accommodate 16 to 42 family members. They feature a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room and an inviting living room with library, and toys for children. A Fisher House is a temporary residence and is not a treatment facility, hospice or counseling center. The program began in 1990, and has offered nearly 2-1/2 million days of lodging to more than 110,000 families.

NATIONAL NUTRICIAN MONTH
THE SUPER FOODS

10 years ago, Broccoli, peanuts, soy, garlic and salmon were considered to be the top 5 best foods to eat.

After 10 years of scientific discoveries, the current top 5 are: walnuts, Flax seed, Pomegranate, Salmon, Dark Green Vegetables (such as kale, chard, collard greens and broccoli)

Choices, Choices ... although challenging at times, some choices are much better than others when you are eating on the run

INSTEAD OF:

TRY THIS

KFC:

Crispy Twister
(670 calories, 38 g Fat)

Honey BBQ Sandwich
(300 calories, 6 g fat)

McDonald's

Hot Cakes and Sausage
(770 calories, 33 g Fat)

Egg McMuffin
(300 calories, 12 gm fat)

Subway

Chicken Bacon Ranch Sub
(530 calories, 25 gm fat)

Subway Club
(320 calories, 6 gm fat)

Burger King

Tendercrisp Chicken Salad
with Honey Mustard Dressing
(660 calories, 44 g Fat)

Tendergrill Chicken Salad
with Fat Free Ranch
(360 calories, 11 g fat)

Keep in mind - It takes about 52 minutes of walking to burn 200 calories.

FORD RECALL

Ford is recalling 434,593, 2005-2008 Mustang vehicles for failing to comply with one of the neck injury requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, "Occupant Crash Protection," for an unbelted 5th percentile female sitting in the passenger seat while it is in the full forward position. During an air bag deployment, if a small female in the front passenger seat is not wearing the safety belt, and has the seat in the full forward position, there may be an increased potential for a neck injury. Dealers will reprogram the restraint control module free of charge. The recall is expected to begin during March 2008. This recall was the subject of an investigation, OA-208-061002F, conducted by the Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance. Owners may contact Ford at 1-866-436-7332 or through email to www.ownerconnection.com.

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MILITARY HOMOR

KNOWLEDGE

- Really knows what he's doing.
- Knows just enough to be dangerous.
- Only half a brain and is dangerous.
- His coffee cup has a higher I.Q.

ACCURACY:

- Does excellent work is not preoccupied.
- Pretty good accuracy with large numbers.
- Must take off shoes to count above ten.
- What's a number?

ATTITUDE:

- Extremely co-operative.
- Brown noser in good standing.
- Often annoys co-workers and fights.
- Doesn't care, never did, never will.

RELIABLE

- Works so hard he gets extra days off.
- Very dependable.
- Rely on his being first one out the door.
- Absolutely totally worthless.

APPEARANCE:

- Extremely neat and clean.
- Looks great on his day off.
- Flies take him over fresh manure.
- Dirt, filthy, smelly, and ugly.

PERFORMANCE:

- Works hard if money is involved.
- Does great work--at evaluation time.
- Works well after ten cups of coffee.
- Couldn't do less if he were in a coma.

LEADERSHIP:

- Carries chainsaw and gets good results.
- Macho attitude. Commands total disgust.
- One time some listened to him whine.
- Unable to lead even the most ignorant.

EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I understand that I have been counseled and understand my rights under the privacy act of 1974.
 I further acknowledge that I am as stupid as a football bat, and I will make some attempt to correct my deficiencies.

 Employee signature

Murphy's Laws Of Combat Operations

Friendly fire- isn't. Suppressive fires- won't.
 Recoilless rifles- aren't,
 Try to look unimportant; the enemy may be low on ammo and not want to waste a bullet on you.
 If you are forward of your position, your artillery will fall short.
 Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than yourself.
 Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
 If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.
 The enemy diversion you're ignoring is their main attack.
 The enemy invariably attacks on two occasions: when they're ready.
 & when you're not.
 No OPLAN ever survives initial contact.
 There is no such thing as a perfect plan.
 Five second fuses always burn three seconds.
 Don't look conspicuous; it draws fire.
 Never draw fire; it irritates everyone around you.
 If you are short of everything but the enemy, you are in the combat zone.
 When you have secured the area, make sure the enemy knows it too.
 Incoming fire has the right of way.

Commanding the dumb

As we stood in formation at the Pensacola Naval Air Station, our Flight Instructor said, "All right! All you dummies fall out." As the rest of the squad wandered away, I remained at attention. The instructor walked over until he was eye-to-eye with me, and then just raised a single eyebrow. I smiled and said, "Sure was a lot of 'em, huh sir?"

Fishing on the lake

A famous admiral and an equally famous general were fishing together when a sudden squall came up. When it died down both eminent warriors were struggling helplessly in the water. The admiral floundered his way back to the boat and pulled himself painfully in. Then he fished out the general, using an oar. Catching his breath, he puffed: "Please don't say a word about this to anyone. If the Navy found I can't swim I'd be disgraced." "Don't worry," the general said. "Your secret is safe. I'd hate to have my men find out I can't walk on water."

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**SOME FACTS ABOUT THE VETERANS
ADMINISTRATION**

Over 3.7 million veterans and beneficiaries receive compensation or pension benefits from VA. In 2007, VA processed nearly 825,000 claims for disability benefits and added almost 250,000 new beneficiaries to the compensation and pension rolls.

Approximately 523,000 students received education benefits in 2007; 20 percent of them are first time recipients of VA education benefits.

VA guarantees an average of 11,109 loans a month for veterans realizing the American dream of home ownership. VA currently guarantees 2.2 million active home loans to veterans. Those loans total \$243 billion. Over half of VA's home loan guarantees went to first time home buyers. Approximately 90% of the loans use the "no down payment" feature that makes the VA loan guaranty so effective.

VA will pay 1.2 million veterans insurance policy holders \$369 million in dividends this year. VA will also pay \$2.5 billion in life insurance beneficiary claims to 105,000 survivors of veterans and service members.

Approximately 200 children and widows of Spanish-American War veterans still receive VA survivor benefits. There are three survivors of Civil War veterans still receiving VA benefits.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
HOUSE BILL . . No. 3697**

By Mr. Binienda of Worcester, petition of John J. Binienda and others for legislation to exempt certain decorated veterans from parking meter fines.

Veterans and Federal Affairs.

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES AT METERS BY CERTAIN PERSONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

The first paragraph of Section 22A of Chapter 40 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the fourth sentence, the following sentence: No fee shall be exacted and no penalty shall be imposed for the parking of any vehicle owned and driven by a member of The Legion of Valor of the United States of America, Inc., a recipient of The Congressional Medal of Honor or a recipient of The Order of the Purple Heart or a recipient of The Silver or Bronze Star provided, however, such vehicles shall display the distinctive number plate authorized by Section 2 of Chapter 90. **THIS BILL WAS BROUGHT UP IN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON 3/4/08 AND PUT IN A STUDY CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS TO SUPPORT IT.**

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**

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