



Cpl. William F. Reardon
MA. Chapter 57
"The Can Do Chapter"
Chapter 57 Newsletter
P.O. BOX 57
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March / April 2011

Volume 7 Number 4

Page 1

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

We really had a busy month in February!!! We had 43 people show up for the meeting. This included Transfers In and New Members (We'll comment on them in another article.). Among the old and new business that rose above the everyday work of the Chapter we had a report that the Greater Taunton Allied Veterans Council had adopted new By-laws that we had proposed about four years ago; a vote to allow the Mansfield, Chapter 61, to merge into Chapter 57, PCDR Morin had first discussed this with them several. years ago; National's acceptance of our Financial Report for last year and Treas. Jim Zahar's report that he had completed setting up separate bank accounts for Administrative and Forget-Me-Not activities. Routine activities was the creation of the Nominating Committee. PCDR Morin is chair assisted by QMTR Norm Willoughby and SO John Fielding. They will be looking for input from you. Recreation, if that's the word, of a new Honor Guard under SO Ed Hall as captain. ADJ Paul Waldron is in the process of writing a new manual for it. The second floor is almost completed thanks to yeoman work by SO Art Brownell, Walter Elliot, AADJ Denise Furtado, OOD Jim Gray, Greg Sullivan, Paul Waldron, Norm Willoughby, Jim Zahar and a unnamed character or two. There will be a museum like atmosphere with all of the former Chapter 36 and Chapter 57 mementoes. (Who knows we may even get some out of Chapter 61.) But, more important, we will have established space for offices, storage areas and a small R&R area. Facing us is elections, training of Service Officers and selected staff officers and the Convention. Our annual Forget-Me-Not campaign is coming up shortly and we will be looking for volunteers. Parades and ceremonies are just around the corner and participants and our Honor Guard will be in demand. A projected Open House is in the pipeline as well as Members Afternoons on Saturdays or Sundays.

EXPERIENCE WANTED

Shortly after joining the Army, I was in line with some other inductees when the sergeant stepped forward with that day's assignments. He handed several tasks out and then asked, "Does anyone here have experience with radio communications?" A longtime ham radio operator, I shouted, "I do!" "Good," he said. "You can dig the hole for the new telephone pole.

NEW MEMBERS

The lifeblood of any organization is interested, working members. The last dozen years has seen the transformation of Chapter 57 from a dying organization into a vibrant outfit. We can, with pride, claim to be one of the most forward moving chapters in the Commonwealth. From a dead in the water group that Boston had sent out a hit team to close down we've morphed into a gang with a newsletter, a TV program, a building of our own. We've had to rearrange meeting night seating three times within the past year in order to accommodate more people showing up for meetings. Chapter 57 has become a magnet attracting new members. We added several hundred when Middleboro's Chapter 36 opt to merge with us. This brought in a half dozen active members who have, in turn, brought in another half dozen new members. Active members - working members. We are in the process of repeating that process if Mansfield's Chapter 61 gets approval to merge with Chapter 57. But, of even greater importance to our well-being is the fact that individual members are requesting transfer in to Chapter 57 and new recruits are coming in through our Service Office assistance program and eligible individuals see and hear of us and want to belong to a vibrant organization. However, we cannot afford to sit back on our haunches and bay at the moon and gloat over our superiority. We have achieved our current status by taking advantage of the talents and work of a dedicated group. As we've grown so has the demand for additional workers. We've grown in size from a chapter in the bottom to middle of the ranking to closing in on the top half-dozen. It's a lot easier to fall down than it is to rise up Will you volunteer to be one of the members working to make Corp. William F. Reardon, Chapter 57 even better than it is?

DOD ID NUMBER CHANGING

Starting on 1 JUN, as part of a campaign to protect service members, their families and retirees from identity theft, expired cards will be replaced by cards with a new and unique 10 digit identification number. (This number will also be the service member's Geneva Convention ID number). The first 9 digits of that number will identify the sponsor and the remaining 2 identify the individual person. DOD expects the full roll out to take approximately 4 years. There will also be an 11 digit DOD for every person who qualifies for any DOD benefits.

Third Tuesdays of each month
Except July & August
Meeting time - 6:30PM
5-7 Taunton Green
Taunton, MA.
MEETING DATES

May 18, 2010 –by reservation.
Meeting at the Elks
Short Meeting followed by the
Installation of Officers for
2011 – 2012

June 21, 2011 Last Meeting until
September.
Summer Break
September, 20, 2011
October 18, 2011
November 15, 2011
December 20, 2011

RECENTLY DEPARTED
COMRADES

Normand P. Hotte

Edmund Yarusites

GETTING OLD

At the doctors office:
While I sat in the reception area of my doctor's office, a woman rolled an elderly man in a wheelchair into the room. As she went to the receptionist's desk, the man sat there, alone and silent. Just as I was thinking I should make small talk with him, a little boy slipped off his mother's lap and walked over to the wheelchair. Placing his hand on the man's, he said, I know how you feel. My mom makes me ride in the stroller too..'

57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Did you ever hear of the experience one man had with his son one summer vacation? For the first couple of days, his son seemed to misbehave constantly. The man seemed to be continually rebuking and correcting him. Thinking, "No son of mine is going to way.", he made it clear to his son in no terms that he expected his son to start. The boy tried very hard to live up to h standards. In fact, a day went by later in the week in which he hadn't done a single thing that called for correcting. That night, after the boy had said his prayers and jumped into bed, the man noticed that his son's bottom lip began to quiver. "What's the matter, buddy?" he asked his son. Barely able to speak, the boy looked up at his father with tear-filled eyes and asked, "Daddy, haven't I been a good boy today?"



Those words cut through the man's parental arrogance like a knife. He had been quick to criticize and correct his son's misbehavior but failed to mention his pleasure with the boys attempt to be a good boy. The Man's son taught him never to put his children to bed without a word of appreciation and encouragement." Remember, a critical spirit is like poison ivy -- it only takes a little contact to spread its poison.

MILITARY TRIVIA

- The American flag during the Spanish-American war in 1898 contained only 48 stars. The five states not yet admitted to the Union and not represented on the flag were Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii
- Following the British defeat at Dunkirk in June 1940, British actor Norman Shelley made the stirring broadcast vowing that "we shall fight in the fields and in the streets...we shall never surrender" He sounded just like Winston Churchill and read the address so that the prime minister could deal with pressing matters of state.
- Major Clark Gable's army discharge papers in 1944 were signed by President-to-be Ronald Reagan, then a captain.

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

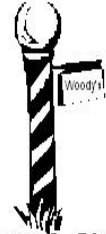
Our Forget-Me-Not, annual fund raiser is in need of volunteers to help us in various locations. This is our most important fund raising event of the year. 100% of the funds collected go to support Disabled Veterans in a variety of ways and in particular the donation of clothing, hygiene items and the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

Military Wisdom Part 1

By Norm Willoughby

- AIM TOWARDS ENEMY." - Instructions printed on US Rocket Launcher
- "When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend." - U.S. Marine Corps
- "Cluster bombing from B-52s are very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground." - USAF Ammo Troop
- "If the enemy is in range, so are you." - Infantry Journal
- "Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons." - General MacArthur
- "You, you, and you panic. The rest of you, come with me." - U.S. Marine Corp Gunnery Sgt.
- "Tracers work both ways." - U.S. Army Ordnance
- "Five second fuses only last three seconds." - Infantry Journal
- Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid." - David Hackworth
- "If your attack is going too well, you're walking into an ambush." - Infantry Journal
- "No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection." - Joe Gay
- "Any ship can be a minesweeper ... once." - Anonymous

NAVAL HUMOR

A young Seaman pulled up to the main gate of the ship yard. The SP noticed that his windshield was busted and that the car's bumper was covered with blood, leaves, and twigs.

Concerned, he asked, "What happened?"

"I was in an accident ... I ran over a Master Chief Petty Officer," the Seaman replied.

"Well, that explains the broken windshield and blood on the grill, but what's with the twigs and leaves?"

"I had to chase him all through the park!"

CAREGIVER APPLICATIONS BEGIN

The VA has published their Interim Final Rule for implementing the family caregiver program, which mirrors the intent of the legislation Congress passed as part of the Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010. Beginning Monday, May 9, 2011, veterans can download a copy of the program application to designate a primary family caregiver or secondary family caregiver, as needed. The caregiver would be eligible for a living stipend, mental health services, and access to health insurance, among other services. For more information, go to <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel...srelease.cfm?id=2088>.

KOREAN WAR MIA ID'd

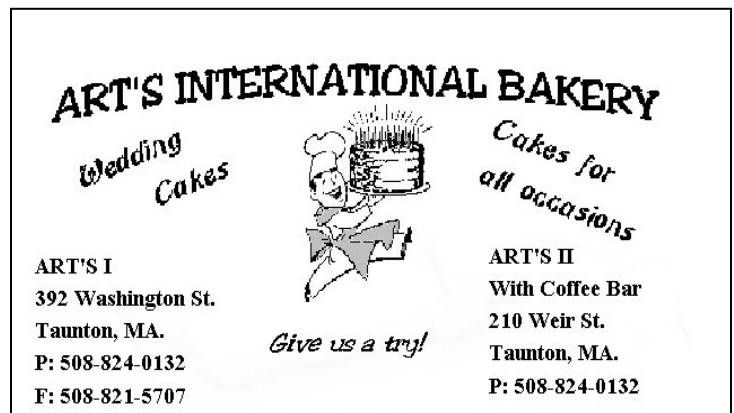
The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced today that the remains of Army Cpl. Primo C. Carnabuci of Old Saybrook, Conn., missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors on May 12 in his hometown. On Nov. 1, 1950, Carnabuci's unit, the 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, occupied a defensive position along the Kuryong River, near Unsan, North Korea. Chinese units attacked the area and forced a withdrawal. Almost 600 men, including Carnabuci, were reported missing or killed in action following the battle.

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ARE CHANGES COMING TO VA MEDICAL COVERAGE?

It's been reported by the National Association for Uniformed Services that the House Budget Committee is studying a plan to save \$6 billion annually in VA health care costs by cancelling enrollment of any veteran who doesn't have a service-related medical condition and is not poor. These veterans are classified as Priority 7 and Priority 8 veterans under VA health care regulations. Cancelling those who were grandfathered 1-8-2003 will put many veterans without insurance in grave risk of their health.

Priority group 8 veterans have no service-connected disabilities and annual incomes, or net worth, that exceed VA means-test thresholds and VA "geographic income" thresholds, which are set by family size. Those who were not enrolled before 1-8-2003 are not been allowed to enroll under present regulation. Priority Group 7 veterans also have no service-connected disabilities and their incomes are above the means-test thresholds. But their incomes or net worth fall below the geographic index. In other words, because of where they live, in high cost areas, they likely struggle financially.

SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT VA HEALTHCARE

Two new studies show VA health care for seniors is better than Medicare. More evidence that veterans receive high quality care through the VA health care system comes from the Journal Medical Care, which recently published the results of two studies performed by Brown University researchers. According to the studies, VA "...has made substantial improvements in quality, in some cases providing substantially better care than is available in private insurance plans."

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ASSAULT ON TRICARE

If military retirees think the Pentagon plan to raise TRICARE fees does not include them, they better think again. A DoD spokeswoman recently revealed the true target of the Department's TRICARE attack—TRICARE for Life. In response to National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) testimony asking Congress to hold the line against fee increases, DoD spokeswoman Cynthia O. Smith pulled back the curtain on the Department's plan to assert that TRICARE for Life was one of the biggest factors contributing to growing costs for military health care. DoD was responding to testimony that accused the Department of manipulating military health care data in order to blame military retirees for the rising costs of the military health program. In the DoD statement, the spokeswoman said the problem is introduction of the TRICARE for Life benefit for elderly retirees. She also asserted that a second large factor for increasing expenses is the fact that working age military retirees actually use the benefit they earned as a result of a 20-year career in the uniformed service. Yes, as appalling as it sounds, you read that right. According to spokeswoman Smith, rising costs result from the earned benefit being used. It is not, according to Ms. Smith, that working age military retirees pay too little a share in enrollment fees. Rather, she says, it's the fact that those who've earned the benefit actually use it. One is left to wonder why those who've earned the benefit are using it. Neither of the factors DoD cites TRICARE for Life or working age use of the Earned Benefit are part of the current Pentagon package of TRICARE fee increases. The plan for TRICARE increases may seem modest at first look, but it is clear the plan is a nose under the tent designed to divide the voice of retirees and start the roll-out for substantial increases in TRICARE fees and copays beyond just TRICARE Prime. Another element DoD fails to mention is its estimate that for every 10 percent increase in out-of-pocket costs, the number of beneficiaries using TRICARE Prime is reduced by one percent. With a 13 percent increase in the first year, if DoD's estimate is accurate, we're likely to see more than 7,700 military retirees drop out of the TRICARE Prime plan with thousands more to follow in the coming years due to the compounding increases in the program if its plan goes into effect. The DoD spokeswoman made no mention of the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as contributing to dramatic increases in the cost of military health care. NAUS is joined in opposition to the Pentagon plan by the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the AMVETS, the Air Force Sergeants Association and the Jewish War Veterans

**YOUR
AD
COULD
BE
HERE**

COLA WATCH
YOU'LL BE GETTING A COLA
BUT AT WHAT COST TO YOUR BUDGET

Inflation rose 1.1 percent for the third month in a row and now stands at 2.1 percent for the year. At this rate retirees are almost certain to see at least a modest COLA increase in 2012. The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced the March CPI-W of 220.024 a 1.1 percent increase over the February value of 217.535 and up 2.1% from the 2008 COLA Base of 215.5. The 2008 COLA base was 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
Prices Increases Since JAN 2009 through MAR 2011
Avg. Retail price/gallon gas in U.S. from \$1.83 to \$3.704 - A 79.6% increase
Crude oil, European Brent (barrel) from \$43.48 to \$105.02 - A 147.7% 2 increase
Crude oil, West TX Inter. (barrel) from \$38.74 to \$104.78 - A 155.9% increase
Gold: London (per troy oz.) from \$853.25 to \$1,469.50 - A 70.5% 2 increase
Corn, No.2 yellow, Central IL from \$3.56 to \$7.33 - An 88.1% increase
Soybeans, No. 1 yellow, IL from \$9.66 to \$13.75 - A 42.3% increase
Sugar, cane, raw, world, lb. from \$13.37 to \$41.39 - A 184.7% increase

VA HOSPITALS PERFORMANCE RATINGS

Hospitals serving U.S. military veterans are moving fast to improve care after the government opened a trove of performance data -- including surgical death rates -- to the public. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in November started posting online at <http://www.hospitalcompare.va.gov> comparisons of the nation's 152 VA hospitals based on patient outcomes: essentially, how likely patients are to survive a visit without complications at one hospital compared with the rest. This unusually comprehensive sort of consumer information on medical outcomes remains largely hidden from the tens of millions of Americans outside the VA system, including many of those in the federal Medicare system. While many of the nation's nearly 23 million veterans have yet to catch on to the program, the quick response by some poor-performing VA hospitals underscores the potential impact of releasing such data.

Editors note: I looked at the ratings and couldn't figure them out - if anyone has a clue, please let me know.

PTSD AND THE LAW

Symptoms of PTSD can range from mild to severe. At times the symptoms may make it more likely that the sufferer will get in trouble with others, or with the law. Although thoughts, level of arousal, and feelings may be affected by PTSD, there is no evidence that even severe PTSD in anyway causes criminal behavior. At the same time, recent legal cases have considered combat stress as a mitigating factor at sentencing. PTSD can affect the way a person sees, thinks, or responds to people and situations. Trauma survivors with PTSD may be more prone to feeling threatened in situations, even when this is not warranted. Anyone who experiences trauma, including those who deal with PTSD, can get care at the VA. Effective treatment can reduce symptoms. This may decrease the chances of getting in trouble with the law. For U.S. Veterans who experienced trauma in service to our country, resources exist to help ensure that needed care is provided.

There is help for Veterans with PTSD who may get in trouble with the law. Programs from VA and others give justice-involved Vets the chance to get treatment rather than face time in jail if they are dealing with mental health issues. State legislatures support Veterans by directing courts to address the mental health status of Veterans in their courts. In many communities, police and other law enforcement are trained to handle mental health crises and to ask if a person is a Veteran. The focus is on treatment, rather than on incarceration. Each VA Medical Center has a Veterans Justice Outreach specialist. VJO's help justice-involved Veterans suffering from PTSD or other mental health issues avoid unnecessary punishment and jail time. VJO's help Veterans get access to VHA mental health and other VA services and benefits. They work with public defenders, providers, community and Veterans organizations, the courts, and others to find ways to help justice-involved Veterans rather than punish them. Find VJO Contacts at your local VA Medical Center.

LEGAL HUMOR

Lawyer: "Judge, I wish to appeal my client's case on the basis of newly discovered evidence."


Judge: "And what is the nature of the new evidence?"

Lawyer: "Judge, I discovered that my client still has \$500 left."

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MILITARY LANGUAGE

I got this from a crusty old retired Master Chief (call me God) Petty Officer. I was surprised to learn that he could actually read and write – I always thought all that Master Chiefs could do was drink beer and bark at people. I think a civilian wrote it for him – but either way, it is pretty good.

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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;

Two more before Summer break. 5/25/10 & 6/22/10

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.

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

- Received donation of 25.00
- In memory of Robert Nichols Sr.
- \$15.00 In Memory of Robert Nicholas
- \$20.00 In Memory of Robert Nichols

- George DuBord - \$50.00
- Building and Admin.
- James Gray 100.00

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.





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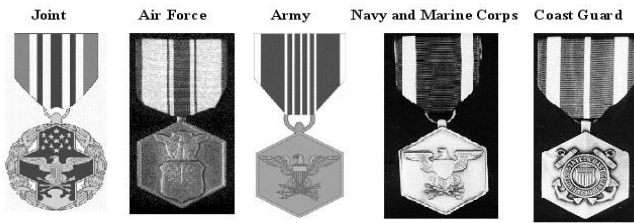
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THE COMMENDATION MEDAL



The Commendation Medal is a mid-level military decoration which is presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service or for valorous actions in direct contact with an enemy force, but of a lesser degree than required for the award of the Bronze Star, the Valor device ("V" device) may be authorized as an attachment to the decoration. Each branch of the United States Armed Forces issues its own version of the Commendation Medal, with a fifth version existing for acts of joint military service. The Commendation Medal is awarded by operational commanders, requiring the signature of an Officer in the grade of O-6, allowing for interpretation of the criteria for which the medal may be awarded. For instance, in the U.S. Navy and United States Marine Corps, the Commendation Medal is considered a somewhat high decoration reserved for Department level officers, senior CPOs and, following a full career, as a retirement award. The awarding of the Commendation Medal in the U.S. Army is not limited to senior service members, and can be awarded to NCOs and junior officers Captains O-3 and below. The U.S. Air Force began issuing its own Commendation Medal in 1958 with additional awards denoted by oak leaf clusters. It was not until 1996 that the "V" device was authorized on the Air Force Commendation Medal. Prior to that time, there was not a Valor distinction in effect for the Air Force Commendation Medal. The last of the Commendation Medals is the Joint Service Commendation Medal which was created in 1963. This award is intended for senior service on a joint military staff and is senior in precedence to service-specific Commendation Medals. As such, it is worn above the service Commendation Medals on a military uniform. As a joint award, multiple awards are denoted with an oak leaf cluster regardless of service. Order of Precedence is following Bronze Star but before POW and Campaign Medals. Each of the military services also issue an Achievement Medal, which is a lesser decoration.

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 A black and white photograph of a soldier in uniform, saluting with his right hand to his forehead.

THE VA BENEFITS HURDLE

The VA is bigger than most realize. As a result most veterans have a lot of misunderstanding with how the VA functions and thus are confused when dealing with the VA for both compensation claims and/or getting medical treatment. Hospitals, clinic, Vet Centers and such provide treatment. They work under their own guidelines, regulations, and budgets. The Benefits Administration or as most commonly called the Regional Office confers compensation/service connection for military related illnesses and injuries, and other commonly known benefits such as home loan guarantees and education. The Benefits Administration does not work under a budget. Both administrations have departments, divisions, subdivisions and contractors. There is a lot of room for communication to break down. So be pro-active and check carefully who will do what and when. Medical treatment at a VA treatment facility does not confer the status of service connection on a medical problem. Service connection is the legal status conferred on a claim that is made only by a Regional Office and only after a rating decision has been completed. This brings us to one final and very important point; read and re-read all that the VA sends you. Determine what is appropriate for your case. The VA is a very large, complex organization that often fails to communicate well within its own. Don't waste time getting angry and frustrated just get informed.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from yesterday." John Wayne.

 A circular logo containing the letters "GH" in a stylized font, with decorative flourishes around the bottom.

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PERSONAL WEALTH

The average American family's household net worth declined 23 percent between 2007 and 2009, families that owned stock saw their portfolios drop by more than a third to \$12,000 from \$18,500, on average, and the value of primary real estate holdings decreased by an average of \$18,700."

ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVES

Advance Medical Directives, which allow people to plan ahead for end-of-life care, can be too vague to cover many medical situations. Now, a growing number of states are promoting another program to help guide physicians with a patient's specific instructions. The programs are known as Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment, or POLST. They are meant to complement advance directives, sometimes known as living wills, in which people state in broad terms how much medical intervention they will want when their condition no longer allows them to communicate. A POLST, which is signed by both the patient and the doctor, spells out such choice. Massachusetts presently has no such program; the legislature is supposedly working to remedy this.

COME AND JOIN OUR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

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**

QUOTES FROM CALVIN COOLIDGE

- * Advertising is the life of trade.
- * Advertising ministers to the spiritual side of trade. It is great power that has been entrusted to your keeping which charges you with the high responsibility of inspiring and ennobling the commercial world. It is all part of the greater work of the regeneration and redemption of mankind.
- * After all, the chief business of the American people is business.
- * All growth depends upon activity. There is no development physically or intellectually without effort, and effort means work.
- * Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.
- * Collecting more taxes than is absolutely necessary is legalized robbery.
- * Education will not (take the place of persistence); the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'press on' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.
- * I have found it advisable not to give too much heed to what people say when I am trying to accomplish something of consequence. Invariably they proclaim it can't be done. I deem that the very best time to make the effort.

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