



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

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

May / June 2008

Volume 5 Number 5

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

CHAPTER 57 ELECTS AND APPOINTS OFFICERS FOR 2007 - 2008

Election of officers is over. You have made your choices known. By the time you read this they may have been sworn in. You have made some excellent decisions. You have mixed in one or two new with the old. This is a refreshing pattern as it shows your past selections were, for the most part, good enough to keep a particular individual in office. It also shows that there is a little reservoir of talent out there that is willing to step up and take over where necessary.

Chapter 57s activities as a landlord will be ending soon as Adjutant Paul Waldron will be reporting. Hopefully we will be selling the Middleboro building and intensifying our search for newer more central quarters for the chapter. More than anything, we need a central office. Currently, I maintain some records and get first whack at most correspondence. Treasure "Pete" Fox has the financial records at his home. Adjutant Waldron maintains most of the chapter records at his home along with the newsletter and TV program material, Quartermaster Norm Willoughby in conjunction with Chaplain "Louis" Demers keeps track of materials either in storage or transit to veteran's facilities. All in all, a real mishmash that should be localized to better serve the chapter.

This is our busiest time of the year. We have parades in Middleboro and Taunton for Memorial Day. We have Flag Day ceremonies, The Brockton VAMC Patients Nights are scheduled for the next two months. We have the Installation Night and the chapter is hosting District Council 7s installation for joint activities. Forget-Me-Not activities will be starting soon. SVC Leroy Crossman has started planning the Chapter Cookout and other functions

We have, as you can see, a great deal of activity in the near future. Please, make a concerted effort to pitch in. Pete Fox is going to need loads of volunteers for the Forget-Me-Not activities. Each year we get larger and larger as we try to keep ahead of our Hospitalized and Institutionalized Brothers and Sisters. Many of them have nobody but you and me to fall back upon. We must continue to expand our giving; particularly, as we have the Iraqi and Afghani warriors adding to our roles.

That brings up one extremely important item. We have to make a real concerted effort to get out and recruit these veterans before they get lost. We cannot afford to loose or overlook these men and women, as was done with Vietnam veterans. We must support them in a manner that is their due. Will you please start searching your neighbors, churches, stores to bring these newest Wounded Warriors into the DAV.

My thanks for your past support.



Chapter 57 meeting to discuss officer nominations 2008 – 9 (Catherine Bradfield Photo)

Chapter 57 has conducted the nomination for officer process for the 2008 – 2009 year. The work began in February and continuing through March. The election was held at the regular meeting in April. The Nomination Committee consisting of Comrades Norman Willoughby, Chairman, Norman Record and James Zahar delivered its report and final nominations were opened to all members just prior to the election, being held. The Nominations for Elected Officers were as follows; Commander – Morton Morin, Senior Vice Commander - LeRoy Crossman, Junior. Vice Commander – Bruce Crossman, Treasurer – Martin “Pete” Fox, Chaplain – Paul “Lou” Demers, Officer Of The Day James M. Zahar, Sergeant At Arms – Stephen Horton, Department Executive Committee Delegate – Norman Willoughby.

All Elective Office Nominees were unopposed. Three calls for additional nominees for each position were issued. Hearing no additional nominees the Adjutant entered one vote for each of the nominees in their appropriate office. The names above stand and are the elected officers for the 2008 -2009 Chapter 57 year.

With the Elected Officer positions completed, Commander Morin made his choices for the Appointed Officer Positions. They are as follows; Adjutant – Paul Waldron, Service Officer – John Fielding, Quartermaster - Norman Willoughby, Armorer – Francis Ardita, Legislative Officer – Francis Ardita, Taunton Allied Veterans Council Representatives – John Fielding and Armando Medeiros, Middleboro Allied Veterans Council Representative – Bruce Crossman.

Congratulations to all of the officers, new, re-elected, appointed and re-appointed. You face a challenging task in the next year with the changing economy. Good luck with your endeavors

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:

March – Paul Waldron

April - Greg Sullivan

Membership Prize

(If not present the prize is forfeited).

March – Arthur O’Toole – Not Present

April – Kenneth Adams - Not present

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 :

May 20, 2008 - Installation of Off’s.

June 17, 2008 – Last Meeting until September.

RECENTLY DEPARTED

COMRADES

**Charles F. McKenna, US Army,
Vietnam**

February 2008

**Charles was an At- Large
member of the DAV**

57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As we know people love to talk. Some like to talk about others. We have a word that describes this. It is called “GOSSIP”. The talk may be true, partly true or false. But people pass it on! Those who listen to gossip as much a part as the Gossiper. Before you listen when someone wants to tell you about someone else try Socrates’ test.



Socrates came upon an acquaintance that ran up to him excitedly and said, “Do you know what I just heard about one of your friends?” “Just a minute,” Socrates replied. “Before you tell me I’d like you to pass a little test. It’s called the Test of Three.

“The first test is Truth. Are you sure that what you will say is true?” “Oh no,” the man said, “Actually I just heard about it.” “So you don’t really know if it’s true, Socrates said.

Now let’s try the second test, the test of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my friend something good or beneficial?” “No, it is something bad”. “So,” Socrates interrupted, “you want to tell me something bad about him even though you’re not certain it’s true?” The man shrugged, rather embarrassed.

Socrates continued, “You may still pass though, because there is a third test, that tests usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me at all?” “Well it .no, not really..”

“Well, concluded Socrates, “If what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor useful, why tell it to me at all?” The man was defeated and ashamed. This is why reason Socrates was held in such high esteem.

Did he miss out on some important information? Maybe! But before passing on anything, ask yourself Socrates’ questions.

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 1-1/2 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.

May 27, 2008


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

Opportunities to assist at the **Homes For Our Troops** headquarters are available in Taunton. Call Sgt. At Arms Steve Horton for more info at 508-339-6587

The Chapter Color Guard is in need of younger members, that are able to walk and perform some of the manual of arms. (We can teach that.)

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

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



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Volunteering at the Cable Studio

By Kimberly Matthews, Taunton Community Access & Media, Inc.

5/8/08

As many of you know, "The 57 Show", a monthly program which is sponsored and produced by members of the Chapter 57 Disabled American Veterans group. It is taped at the Taunton Community Access & Media, Inc. studio in Taunton. In the last newsletter, I wrote an article about cable access being a forum unlike other media outlets. Meaning that, as a non-profit organization, we are not trying to "sell" anything so that we have the freedom to present subjective programming often with a particular viewpoint, while a news department at a network, or a newspaper that is depending on advertisers does not.

In this article, I would like to mention the importance of studio volunteers. "The 57 Show" relies on a crew of volunteers to produce their show every month not unlike many of the 11 programs that are produced at the Taunton studio. On these shows, the volunteers run studio cameras, act as floor directors, work in the control room and take cameras out into the field for interviews. They do not receive any pay, just the satisfaction of helping out their community with local programming. Because we have only a small staff at the studio, we definitely could not produce the amount of programming that we do without the volunteers, whom we truly rely on. So this month, I'd like to say thanks to all of our volunteers, for a job well done!

DAV INFORMATION SEMINAR

Many disabled veterans feel confused about benefits and services they've earned. There is so much to know and understand along with changes from year to year, it is difficult to keep on top of things.

A highly trained National Service Officer from the DAV's Boston Office will conduct this seminar. This veterans benefits expert offers you the best counseling and claim filing assistance you and your family can get. This seminar is free of charge and you don't need to be a DAV Member to take advantage of the DAV Service. Bring your VA Claim Number and Social Security Number to the Seminar.

June 5, 2008 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

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CHAPTER 57 TEAMS WITH OCEAN STATE
JOB LOT TO HELP VETERANS



Comrades Norm Willoughby and Bill LaLiberte the Chapter 57 coordinators of the Ocean State Job Lot, Donations For Veterans Program. Jan LaLiberte Photo

Chapter 57 and Ocean State Job Lot have been teaming up to help Veterans.

Veterans Hospitals, Soldiers Homes, Veteran Outreach Centers and Veteran Homeless Shelters were supplied with clothing, toiletries, athletic shoes, towels and an extensive list of other items solely for helping Veterans.

Items were supplied and shipped by Ocean State Job Lot to the numerous Veterans facilities in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. A total of 62 Pallets were shipped, which is the equivalent of 3 1/2 trailer truck loads.

Bill LaLiberte and Norm Willoughby, on behalf of Chapter 57 worked on the contacting the various Veterans groups, and provided logistics and contacts to Ocean State Job Lot.

Claire and Marc Perlman and Carlos Oliveira of Ocean State Job Lot, along with their staff, provided the material, warehousing and the disbursement to the various Veterans groups throughout the region.

Without the Perlman's this fine program would not have been possible. This large undertaking has made under-funded non profit veterans groups very happy, not to mention the Veterans themselves. It is gratifying for Ocean State Job Lot, Our Chapter 57 Coordinators and the members of Chapter 57 to see the success of this program and the happiness it has brought to others.

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PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

Peripheral Neuropathy, in its most common form, causes us to feel pain and numbness in our hands and feet. The pain is usually described as tingling or burning, while the loss of sensation often is compared to wearing a thin pair of socks or glove.

Peripheral Neuropathy can be the result of traumatic injuries, infections, metabolic problems or exposure to toxins. One of the most common causes of this disorder is diabetes.

In a lot of these cases neuropathy improves over time especially if it's caused by some underlying condition that can be helped. Medications that were designed to help with other conditions like epilepsy and depression are often used to reduce the painful symptoms of peripheral neuropathy.

Our nervous system is divided into two categories, one being our central nervous system which consists of our brain and spinal cord. All the other nerves in our body are part of our peripheral nervous system, which includes: A: sensory nerves which receives feelings such as heat, pain or touch. B: motor nerves C: Autonomic nerves which control automatic function like blood pressure, heart rate, digestion and bladder function.

Most commonly, peripheral neuropathy begins in the longest nerves, like the one that reaches our toes. Specific symptoms vary, depending on the type of nerves that are affected. Signs and symptoms we should look for may include: 1. Gradual onset of numbness and tingling in the feet or hands, 2. Burning pain 3. Sharp, jabbing pain 4. Extreme sensitivity to touch 5. Lack of coordination 6. Muscle weakness 7. Bowel or bladder problems.

A number of factors can be the cause of neuropathy, such as, Trauma and pressure on the nerve, Diabetes, Vitamin B deficiencies, Alcoholism, Autoimmune deceases, other diseases like kidney and liver, under active thyroid to name a few, Inherited disorders like Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease and Amyloid polynuropathy, Exposure to poisons, these may include toxic substances, such as heavy metals and certain medications especially the ones for treating cancer. Unfortunately it's not always easy to pin point what caused your neuropathy unless it is associated with diabetes it's possible they could never find the cause.

If you have any of these symptoms you should see your Dr. right away, early detection offers the best chance to controlling your symptoms and preventing further damage to your peripheral nerves. You may note the word controlling is used that is simply because you cannot say cure!

It may also be stated that sometimes it is difficult to diagnosis the problem and different doctors have different opinions and interpretations of findings. Sometimes the symptoms are such that an exact cause cannot be pinpointed. - By Pete Fox

OUR FREE PRESS

Why does our news media insist on counting bodies in Iraq?

It seems to me that the 4000 killed in the five years in Iraq is small considering the fact that the men and women in Iraq are in an are where they have people that are actively trying to kill them.

Now if we look at the deaths on our own highways over a five year span, for that statistics are available, the number is shocking. We hope that we are not out to kill one another! Then again, maybe we are! Have you noticed the aggressive drivers and number of "Road Rage" incidents seem to grow each year.

Year	Fatalities
2002	43,005
2003	42,884
2004	42,836
2005	43,510
2006	42,642

TOTAL 214,877

WOW! 57.7 times The 4000 deaths the Media is so up in arms about. It seems to be that the media has some other motive than simply reporting the Combat deaths.

They are not reporting our highway deaths, Iraqi civilian deaths, deaths in Darfur. Reporting the deaths of our servicemen and women, whose certainly is tragic also is a thing that generates political feelings. Unfortunately, service people's deaths and politics sell papers! The media it seems is only interested in "Hype" and selling their stories.

They don't care one iota about good stories as they don't sell. It is a philosophy of . SENSATIONALIZE AT ALL COST. What a tragic philosophy.

The New York Times has reported on Darfur and deserves credit along with a handful of other papers. Darfur has seen the Janjaweed, who are backed by Government troops, carry out widespread killings of civilians. At least 200,000 civilians have died. There may be many more but they are not reported on.

It is too bad that news can't be reported in a way that is fair, consistent and not sensationalized in order to sell papers and television ads. It seems that Our "Free Press" is only interested in items they can turn a profit from! Now, isn't that a real tragedy!


It is too bad that the few news outlets that really report the news in an objective, straight forward manner have to be lumped in with the sensationalists and Chicken Little press and TV.



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VA CALLING COMBAT VETERANS

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently began contacting nearly 570,000 combat veterans to ensure they know about VA's medical services and other benefits. A "Combat Veteran Call Center" will call two distinct populations of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. In the first phase, calls will go to an estimated 17,000 veterans who were sick or injured while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. VA officials will offer to appoint a care manager to work with them. The second phase targets 550,000 Afghanistan and Iraq veterans who have been discharged from active duty but have not contacted VA for services to make sure they are informed about VA's benefits and services.

The VA has also come out with a new pamphlet titled "Welcome Home". In conjunction with The Dept. of Defense The VA is reaching out to Veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Listed in this are some things that returning veterans can receive from the VA.

- Assistance with VA health care and benefit systems.
- Primary Care
- Traumatic Brain Injury and Polytrauma Center.
- Full dental exam within 90 days of discharge.
- Women's Health
- Couples and family counseling
- Mental Health – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Those mentioned are but a few of the things being offered by the VA. You may apply on line at, www.va.gov or by calling one of the following:

VA Boston Health Care System, - Mel Tapper at 857 364-6780
 Providence R I VAMC, John Laneve - 413 584-4040 Ext. 2143

LEST WE FORGET

MAY

- 4 May 1942 Battle of the Coral Sea Begins.
- 7 May 1945 Germany surrenders, unconditionally. VE Day
- 14 May 1941 Women's Army Corps formed.
- 26 May Memorial Day observed.

JUNE

- 4 June 1942 Battle of Midway begins.
- 6 June 1944 D-Day Allied invasion of Europe.
- 14 June 1777 U.S. Army established.
- 22 June 1942 Congress recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 25 June 1950 North Korean Forces invade South Korea.
- 28 June 2004 Interim Iraqi Government formed.

WOMEN VETERANS TRANSITION HOUSE
(JUSTICE HOUSE) OF NEW BEDFORD



L – R Quartermaster Norm Willoughby, Chris Bruce and Chaplain Paul “Lou” Demers at the Transition House in New Bedford.

On April 23, 2008 Chapter Quartermaster Norm Willoughby and Chaplain Lou Demers recently presented a check from the of the members of CHAPTER 57, to the Women Veterans Transition House in New Bedford Mass. They met with Chris Bruce of the Transition House, who accepted the donation , on behalf of this fledging program.

This worthy cause provides shelter to Women Veterans who are, or at risk of, being homeless.

Almost two million Women Veterans have served our country from the American Revolution to the present day. During Desert Storm seven per cent of the total of U. S. forces deployed was women – over forty thousand of them. Unfortunately, these brave women receive the least amount of services.

Recognizing the need, the Southeastern Massachusetts Veterans Housing Program, Inc. recently purchased a new facility at 98 Arnold St., New Bedford, MA. in order to provide ten (10) beds exclusively dedicated to women veterans who are, or at risk of, being homeless. The women's program is based upon the original men's VTH program but adjusted for the specific needs of the female veteran and designed to operate as a separate, affiliated program. A professional staff of a program coordinator, house manager, recovery program coordinator, and twenty-four hours coverage by staff associates will provide a comprehensive and effective program.

Justice House has received the support from U. S. Representative Barney Frank and Mass. State Senator Mark Montigny. Necessary renovations to the facility are about to begin and the program should be officially opened by July of this year.



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SUICIDE AMONG VETERANS

Suicide is the 11th most frequent cause of death in the US: someone dies from suicide every 16 minutes. Suicidal ideas and attempts to harm oneself are the result of problems that may seem like they can't be fixed. Together, Vet Centers and VA Medical Centers stand ready to reach out and help veterans at risk for suicide. Seek professional help...Call the toll-free National Suicide Prevention hotline and indicate you are a veteran. You'll be immediately connected to VA suicide prevention and mental health professionals. We can help-- If you feel you are in Crisis--Call the Suicide hotline (1-800-273-TALK), your local VA Medical Center or Vet Center today!

This following letter from the Department of Veteran's Affairs has recently been sent to many veterans, that have recently returned from deployments. It also may apply to veterans from prior service.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Under Secretary for Health
Washington DC 20420**

Dear Veteran,

If you're experiencing an emotional crisis and need to talk with a trained VA professional, the **National Suicide Prevention toll-free hotline number, 1-800-273-TALK (8255)**, is now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You will be immediately connected with a qualified and caring provider who can help. **Here are some suicide warning signs:** 1. Threatening to hurt or kill yourself 2. Looking for ways to kill yourself 3. Seeking access to pills, weapons or other self destructive behavior 4. Talking about death, dying or suicide *The presence of these signs requires immediate attention.* If you or a veteran you care about has been showing any of these signs, do not hesitate to call and ask for help! **Additional warning signs may include:** 1. Hopelessness 2. Rage, anger, seeking revenge 3. Acting reckless or engaging in risky activities, seemingly without thinking 4. Increasing alcohol or drug abuse 5. Feeling trapped -like there's no way out 6, Withdrawing from friends and family 7. Anxiety, agitation, inability to sleep - or, excessive sleepiness 8. Dramatic mood swings 9. Feeling there is no reason for living, no sense of purpose in life Please call the **toll-free hotline number, 1-800-273-TALK (8255)** if you experience any of these warning signs. We'll get you the help and assistance you need right away!

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Kussman, MD, MS, MACP

Under Secretary for Health Washington DC 20420

VETERAN STATISTICS

Operation Enduring Freedom and / Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans • 48% are Active Duty, 52% are Reserve/National Guard • 88% are men, 12% are women • 65% Army; 12% Air Force; 12% Navy; 12% Marine • 34% were deployed multiple times • 52%, largest age group, is 20-29 years old • 69% of those who filed disability claims received service-connected disability compensation award

Our Aging Veteran Population

There are about 23.8 million living veterans, 7.5% of whom are women. There are about 37 million dependents (spouses and dependent children) of living veterans and survivors of deceased veterans. Together they represent 20% of the US population.

Most veterans living today served during times of war. The Vietnam Era veteran, about 7.9 million, is the largest segment of the veteran population. In 2007, the median age of all living veterans was 60 years old, 61 for men and 47 for women. Median ages by period of service: Gulf War, 37 years old; Vietnam War, 60; Korean War, 76; and WW II 84. Sixty percent (60%) of the nation's veterans live in urban areas. States with the largest veteran population are CA, FL, TX, PA, NY and OH, respectively. These six states account for about 36% of the total veteran population.

SANDS OF REMEMBRANCE REMEMBERED



The Sands of Remembrance memorial was a historically accurate 30' x 30' life size sand sculpture located in Vierville-sur-Mer on Omaha Beach in Normandy, France. The project was initiated by the White House Commission on Remembrance and depicted soldiers landing in Normandy on D-Day. Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the historic date, this tribute marked the first time in history that such an endeavor has ever been undertaken. It was dedicated May 30, 2004 and exhibited through June 6, 2004, commemorating the 60th Anniversary of D-Day .

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THE TALIBAN COMMANDER

A Taliban Commander was sitting in a cave when he hears a voice from over a hill. It's the voice of an American soldier: "One American soldier is better than any 10 Taliban fighters". The angry Taliban sends over ten of his best soldiers.

After a lot of gun fire and yelling and screams of agony the Taliban hears the American voice again. "One American soldier is better than any 100 Taliban fighters" So the Taliban sends over 100 of his better soldiers and is sure of victory.

After a lot of gun fire and yelling and screams of agony the Taliban hears the American voice again. "One American soldier is better than any 1000 Taliban fighters" The infuriated Taliban Commander sends his toughest, meanest, personal guards over the hill. After hundreds of bullets are fired, numerous explosions and the screaming and crying, it was over.

The Taliban Commander now wondering what happened goes over the hill where he finds a wounded Taliban soldier who says "don't send anymore men it's really a trap there are really two of them!".

MORNING RUN

The tough old drill instructor making his morning announcements to a group of recruits in front of their barracks, stated: "Today, maggots, I have some good news and some bad news. First, the good news Private Fat Stuff Peters will be setting the pace on our morning five mile run." With this the platoon was overjoyed, as Private Peters was overweight and terribly slow. The drill instructor then finished his statement: "Now for the bad news, Private Peters will be driving a truck!"

FRED

Fred had been a faithful Christian and was in the hospital, near death. The family called their preacher to stand with them. As the preacher stood next to the bed, Ol' Fred's condition appeared to deteriorate and he motioned frantically for something to write on.

The pastor lovingly handed him a pen and a piece of paper, and Fred used his last bit of energy to scribble a note, then suddenly died. The preacher thought it best not to look at the note at that time, so he placed it in his jacket pocket.

At the funeral, as he was finishing the message, he realized that he was wearing the same jacket that he was wearing when Ol' Fred died. He said, "You know, Ol' Fred handed me a note just before he died. I haven't looked at it, but knowing Fred, I'm sure there's a word of inspiration there for us all." He opened the note, and read, "Please step to your left -- you're standing on my oxygen tube!"

SPEEDING!

Old Lady Driving on Highway Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a State Police Officer sees a car pattering along at 22 MPH. He thinks to himself, This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over. Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies -- two in the front seat and three in the back -- wide eyed and white as ghosts. The driver, obviously confused, says to him, Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?" Ma'am," the officer replies, you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers." Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly... Twenty-two miles an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly. The State Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that 22" was the route number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error. But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask... Is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time," the officer asks. Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just got off Route 119."

CAN YOU RAED TIHS

Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttair in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoentt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a total msees and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Pettry amzanig huh?

I HURT

A young woman went to her doctor complaining of pain. "Where are you hurting?" asked the doctor. "You have got to do something, I hurt all over", said the woman. "What do you mean, all over?" asked the doctor, "be a little more specific." The woman touched her left knee with her index finger and yelled, "Ow, that hurts." Then she touched her left cheek and again yelled, "Ouch! That hurts, too." Then she touched her right earlobe, "Ow, even THAT hurts", she cried. The doctor checked her thoughtfully for a moment and told her his diagnosis, "You have a broken finger."

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MASSACHUSETTS SOLDIER'S HOMES

There are two Soldiers' Homes in Massachusetts--one in Holyoke and one in Chelsea. To be eligible for veterans' benefits, one must be a "veteran" or a dependent of a "veteran" under M.G.L. c. 4, sec. 7, cl. 43rd as amended by the Acts of 2005, ch. 130.

The contact information for these Homes is;

Soldiers' Home in Holyoke 110 Cherry Street Holyoke, MA 01040 413-532-9475 www.mass.gov/hly	Soldiers' Home in Chelsea Michael Resca, Commandant 91 Crest Avenue Chelsea, MA 02150 617-884-5660 www.mass.gov/che
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Some of the Eligibility dates are as follows.

VIETNAM I	1-Feb-1955 4-Aug-1964	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
VIETNAM II	5-Aug-1964 7-May-1975	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PEACETIME	8-May-1975 1-Aug-1990	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.

You may call one of the numbers above for information on many other qualifying dates of service.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Please Support Passage of H. Con. Res. 336 (US Congress)

Please contact your Representative today to urge him or her to co-sponsor and support H. Con. Res. 336, which honors the sacrifices of all disabled American veterans by recognizing a week dedicated to disabled veterans. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-4) introduced this resolution on April 29, 2008, when it was then referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs. We need your assistance to ensure it moves from the Committee to the full House for a vote.

The current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have added well over 30,000 of our sons and daughters to the rolls of veterans disabled in defense of our Nation-that number continues to grow. Collectively, there are approximately 2.8 million veterans receiving compensation for disabilities incurred in the line of duty

Please Support the Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act

Contact your Congressional Representative and Senators to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 4107, the "Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act", and S. 2799, the "Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2008", to take action to ensure VA will be able to care for a new generation of women veterans.

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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