



Cpl. William F. Reardon
MA. Chapter 57
“The Can Do Chapter”
Chapter 57 Newsletter
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Sr. Vice Commander	Francis Ardita
Jr. Vice Commander	William LaLiberte
Adjutant	Paul Waldron
Treasurer	Martin Fox
Chaplain	Donald Ryan
Officer of The Day	James Zahar
Sergeant At Arms	Stephen Horton
Service Officer	Mort Morin
Quartermaster	Norman Willoughby
Legislative Officer	Bill Blight
Armorer	Mort Morin

May / June 2010

Volume 8 Number 1

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

This is a new experience for me. I'm writing this as your Commander while I'm still somewhat in shock.

We have one of the Commonwealth's premier veterans organizations. Chapter 57, with its newsletter, TV program, own quarters and an active membership is a group to be proud of. But, we have to keep working to retain where we are. I'm going to ask each and every one of you to give me the support you gave Past Commander Morin.

We will be working hard to finish up work on our building. Quartermaster Norm Willoughby and Alternate DEC Delegate Arthur Brownell have been working hard to get our first floor finished. And Norm has already started recruiting help to go to work on the second floor. New windows are already installed. There are a lot of jobs just waiting for an assignment. Please check with Norm to see if you can help.

One thing that has happened over the past few years is the number of newer members volunteering to help out. I'm very happy that Chapter 57 has been able to attract members that are willing to give of their time and effort. Let me just cite a few of the newer members who have stepped up to the plate. Bill Blight, Teller of Hilarious Tales, Legislative Chairman, newsletter editor; Arthur Brownell, carpenter, locksmith, handyman; and Don Ryan, Chaplain and probable Service Officer. Not one of them has been a member of Chapter 57 for two years. If we can continue this same movement, we should continue to maintain our standing in the DAV.

We now have a mix of old and new members. We're also getting more members from the outlying towns who have been looking for an active chapter. We've got to find things for them to do.

Assisting me during my term of office will be a mix of old and new officers. SVC Frank Ardita has moved up from JVC; Bill LaLiberte is now JVC; Treasurer Pete Fox is holding down the same job as is Adjutant Paul Waldron. Paul is now, the chapter's longest serving officer and he is hoping to train a newer member, Denise Furtado as his replacement for next year. Chaplain Don Ryan is new to the job. Quartermaster Norm Willoughby keeps finding new jobs without changing his title.

Coming up will be our summer program, our Forget-Me Not Drive, chapter cookout and other seasonal activities. Please chip in. Chapter 57 covers a large territory and has over a thousand potential members. We have to keep active if we are to continue to serve our country's Wounded Warriors and their dependents.

Chapter 57 is only as good as we make it.

Leroy Crossman, Commander

A FEELING OF LOSS
AND A HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

I've been a member of DAV Chapter 57 for less than two years. As a Vietnam Vet, I never had a connection with the World War One, World War Two and Korean Vets – the DAV and other Veterans Organizations belonged to them; they had fought different wars and didn't seem to have a clue what we had gone through – fighting an unpopular war with political leadership that was indeterminate and a media and public that was downright hostile.

As I've aged, I must have matured – or maybe the WWII and Korean vets mellowed – or more likely a combination of the two. We now accept each other – that barrier that separated us no longer exists – and now the torch is being passed from the WWII and Korean Vets to we Vietnam and Vietnam era Vets.

I have this feeling of loss as Mort Morin and the other WWII and Korean Vets pass the gavel to Leroy Crossman and his crew of younger veterans. And I also have this feeling of hope as we Vietnam and Vietnam era Vets reach out to our younger brethren who fought wars and insurgencies in the deserts of Iraq and mountains of Afghanistan. We know what it's like to come home from an unpopular war; we know what it's like to be looked at with disdain for both the uniform and the man or woman wearing that uniform; we know what it's like to feel pride for having been there and done that, yet having to hide it for fear of being seen as a psychotic, drug crazed nut case; we know what it's like to be undercut by a hostile media; we know what it's like to have fought battles with the VA to recognize the horrors of Agent Orange. WE KNOW!

And because we know, it's up to us to make sure that our Desert Storm, OIF and OEF comrades never have to suffer such indignities. That we join with them to fight the good fight and to win for them and their families the support that their government owes them and to ensure that the public is aware of their sacrifice.

We have some big shoes to fill – but with leaders like Leroy, Bill, Pete, Norm, Paul, Frank and the others, I think we can do it. I've recognized that we're all brothers and sisters who share a common experience – and we now have a goal to serve those in and out of uniform, and their families. What a worthy goal it is to serve others – and what a feeling of accomplishment it can give..

It feels good to be a member of such a great organization – you should join us the third Tuesday of each month and share our love of country and support of our soldiers, our fellow vets and their families

Bill Blight, Legislative Officer, Newsletter Editor

CH. 57 MEETINGS

Third Tuesdays of each month

Except July & August

Meeting time - 6:30PM

5-7 Taunton Green

Taunton, MA.

MEETING DATES

**We will not meet in July
and August.**

**Our next meeting will be
21 September 2010**

**RECENTLY DEPARTED
COMRADES**

John T. Moulaison

May 2010 WW II

Everett F. Menice

May 2010 US Army WW II

Adrien R. "Pete" Levesque

May 2010 US Army WW II

Charles A. Harrison

March 2010

Richard T. Andrews

March 2010

**PRIZE DRAWING
UPDATE**

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

PRIZE DRAWINGS

\$25.00 Attendance Door Prize:

May – Installation No Prize

June – Published prior to this meeting.

57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

There's a joy and heart filling satisfaction in helping others – even when you're not in good shape yourself. This reminds me of a story I once read which goes like this:

Two men, both seriously ill, shared the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help with his chronic pain. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back.

The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives, families and homes, their jobs, their military service and the DAV. Every afternoon when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing all the things he could see outside the window.

The man in the other bed began to live for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed the model boats.

Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color of the rainbow. Grand old trees graced the landscape, and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene.

Days and weeks passed. One morning, the day nurse arrived to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch. Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the world outside. Finally, he would have the joy of seeing it for himself.

He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. It faced a blank wall. The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate who had described such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She said, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you and to make you feel good".

Don Ryan, Chaplain; 508-823-0409

**WALK WITH US**

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

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


Call Pete at 508- 823-0409

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

We are in need of help in a variety of 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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Veterans' Guide to Benefits

Following is a list of benefits available to Veterans who live in Massachusetts. If you or someone you know could use any of these benefits, contact your local Veterans Service Officer and he or she will be able to determine eligibility or guide you to help. Remember that you, your spouse, parent or child has earned these benefits. Numbers to call:

Dighton: 508-669-5027

Lakeville: 508-947-7224

Middleboro: 508-946-2407

Norton: 508-285-0218

Raynham: 508-828-4527

Rehoboth: 508-252-4467

Taunton: 508-821-1038

Public Assistance

Chapter 115

Massachusetts health insurance law and VA healthcare

Education Benefits

Tuition waiver for all Massachusetts veterans to all state colleges and universities

National Guard tuition and fee waiver

Public service scholarship programs

Post 9/11 GI Bill

Veterans Upward Bound Program

Massachusetts Soldiers Legacy Fund

Motor Vehicle Benefits

Registration exemption for disabled veterans and ex-prisoners of war

Veterans' series license plates

Distinctive military emblems

Motor vehicle excise exemption for disabled veterans and ex-prisoners of war

Sales tax exemption for disabled veterans



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Property Tax Exemptions

To qualify, all veterans (and spouses where applicable) must:

- be legal residents of Massachusetts.
- be occupying the property as his/her domicile on July 1 in the year of application.
- have lived in Massachusetts for at least six months prior to entering the service (spouses exempted) or,
- have lived in Massachusetts for five consecutive years

Housing

State-aided public housing

Homeless shelters (short stay) and Transitional (longer stay) and supportive housing with services

Soldiers' Homes

RAFT (Residential Assistance to Families in Transition)

Tenancy Preservation Program

VA Supported Housing Program

Outreach and Counseling

Outreach Centers

Vet Centers

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Employment and Job Protection

Women Veterans

Women Veterans' Network

Women Veterans' Network Committee

36 Frequently Asked Questions from Massachusetts Women Veterans

Governor's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Center for Women Veterans

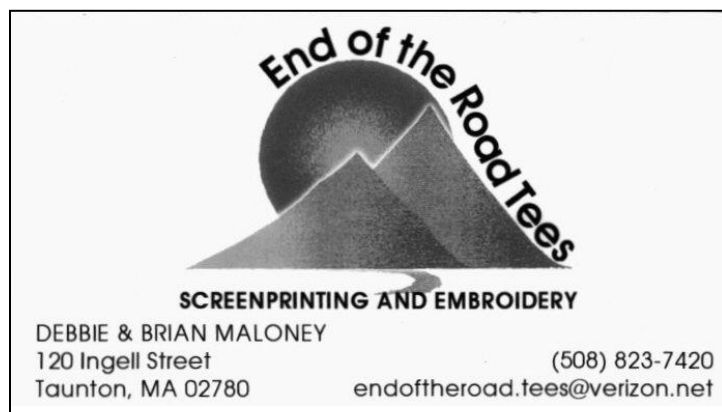
Veterans' Bonuses and Annuities

Burial Benefits


Rights of Guard and Reserve Members Called-UP



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VA Sponsors New Scholarship for the Children of Fallen Service Members

Benefit Honors Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry. The children of military personnel who died in the line of duty since Sept. 11, 2001 can apply for an educational scholarship similar to the new Post-9/11 GI Bill. Benefits are retroactive to Aug. 1, 2009. The scholarship, which is administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, are named after Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry, 28, a Texas native who died in Iraq in 2006 while disarming an explosive. He was survived by three young children. VA will begin paying benefits under the Fry scholarships on Aug. 1, 2010. Eligible participants may receive benefits retroactively to August 1, 2009, the same day the Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect. Eligible children may be married. Recipients are entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100 percent level.

FSGLI Reduces Premiums

Military personnel insuring their families under the Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program, which is administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, will have reduced out-of-pocket expenses beginning July 1. "VA hopes these reductions will allow more military personnel to obtain affordable life insurance coverage for their spouses, particularly in these difficult economic times." "Without insurance protection, life after the loss of a spouse can be not only challenging emotionally, but can place a severe financial strain on a family." Family SGLI (FSGLI) monthly premium rates will be reduced for all age groups by an average of 8 %.

Applying for Health Benefits?

Veterans will find it easier and faster to apply for their health care benefits since the VA has updated its online Form 10-10EZ, "Application for Health Benefits."



THE PURPLE HEART

The Purple Heart is the oldest military medal in the world in present use. General George Washington initially designed and created it on August 7, 1782 as the Badge of Military Merit in response to an order from the Continental Congress to cease recognizing a soldier's outstanding valor or merit by an advancement of rank or granting of a commission due to a lack of funds. During preparation for Washington's bicentennial in 1932, the General Order for August 7, 1782 creating the Badge of Merit was rediscovered after 150 years of being lost. The medal was redesigned as a purple heart, with a bust of Washington in its center, and Washington's coat-of-arms on top. With the new design it was renamed the Purple Heart.

Criteria for Award of the Purple Heart:


The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an Armed Force who, while serving with the U.S. Armed Services after April 5, 1917, has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after being wounded.

- In any action against an enemy of the United States;
- In any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the United States are or have been engaged;
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party;
- As a result of an act of any enemy of opposing armed forces;
- As the result of an act of any hostile foreign force;
- After March 28, 1973, as a result of an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States.
- After March 28, 1973, as a result of military operations, while serving outside the territory of the United States as part of a peacekeeping force.



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MEMORIAL DAY 2010

Pictured above are Chapter 57 members just prior to the Taunton Parade with Mayor Charles Crowley and Miss Taunton, Alyson Levy.

Another first for Chapter 57! This year's Memorial Day saw the Chapter involved in not one or two but three parades. For the past three years we have been in the Taunton and Middleboro parades. This year The Dighton/Rehoboth parade was added. In order to cover all of these parades our members divided forces. It worked out very well and the Chapter was well represented in all three parades.

Of course the events began early in the day. In Taunton the Color Guard and some members were on hand at the Civil War Monument, in the Mayflower Cemetery. It seems we had a problem with "Murphy's Law" regarding the other Monuments as we had been told that there would not be ceremonies at them. This will not happen next year. The parade began shortly after 1:00pm.

In Middleboro the veterans did their round of the cemetery's early in the morning. After the cemetery ceremonies the marchers had a breakfast at the VFW. They next participated in the parade up and down the center of town and a concluding ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park near the Town Hall.

The Dighton/Rehoboth parade was held in Dighton this year. We had only a small contingent available for this event. Those that attended were enthusiastic about the event and look forward to participating in the future.

Memorial Day is a time to remember and honor those veterans of all wars that gave their all, in our Nations wars. It is a day to reflect and give thanks for the lives and deeds of all deceased that have given us what we have and what we are. May we never forget those we have lost and continue to honor their memory.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHAPTER 57'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUILDING FUND

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

CONTRIBUTORS

\$1 - \$100

Robert M. Leavitt - \$25.00

Daniel O'Connor - \$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.

THE WISDOM OF RONALD REAGAN

'If we ever forget that we're one nation under GOD, then we will be a nation gone under.'

'Socialism only works in two places: Heaven where they don't need it and hell where they already have it.'

'Government is like a baby: An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other.'

'Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong.'

'No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is as formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women.'

'The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program.'

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.



JOE THE TAILOR

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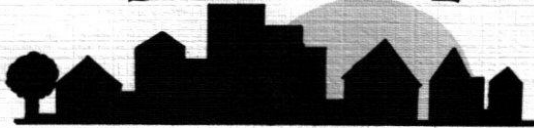
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CHAPTER 57 WIVES HOLD FIRST MEETING AT THE CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS



Pictured above are the wives of Chapters 57 and 36 past and present members, during their first gathering at their Chapter 57 "Home". In the last issue of our newsletter an open letter to the wives of members was published. Other letters were mailed to those who we knew no longer received the newsletter. The letter invited them to join others at the Chapter 57 Headquarters for a meeting. The idea was started at the March 2010 Meeting.

This meeting was held on June 5, 2010. The response was excellent. These ladies were welcomed by members of the Chapter and addressed by Adjutant Paul Waldron, who spoke about the purpose of this group.

Waldron explained the main purpose is to try and make sure that no wife is left behind as time and the Chapter moves ahead. The mandate of the DAV is to Build Better Lives For Disabled American Veterans as well as their Wives, Widows and Orphans. The group was offered the Meeting room for meetings at their choosing. After briefing the ladies they were left to talk and plan things as well as to get to know one another.

There was talk of the next meeting, of teaching others how to knit, playing of card and board games. The spoke of day trips to Foxwoods, going out for lunches, and other outings. This group also allows them a place to simply talk with one another and be a part of the Chapter 57 Family as the men in their lives are and have been. With the addition of this group the Chapter truly is doing the work of the DAV and in the process becomes a real family that really cares for each other.

We welcome this group. It is open to all present and former Chapter Members. For more information call **508-823-0409**

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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;

We're on Summer break - next meeting is 09/28

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

ANNUAL FORGET-ME-NOT DRIVE PLANS

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

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

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

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

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

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How Fights Start

My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping channels. She asked, 'What's on the TV?'

I said, 'Dust.'

And then the fight started...

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said, 'I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds.'

I bought her a bathroom scale.

And then the fight started....

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her some place expensive.. so I took her to a gas station.

And then the fight started...

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table..

My wife asked, 'Do you know her?'

'Yes,' I sighed, 'She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since.'

'My God!' says my wife, 'who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?'

And then the fight started...

I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason took my order first. 'I'll have the steak, medium rare, please.'

He said, "Aren't you worried about mad cow?"

Nah, she can order for herself."

And then the fight started...

A woman was looking in the bedroom mirror. She was not happy with what she saw and said to her husband, "I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment."

The husband replied, 'Your eyesight's damn near perfect.'

May he rest in peace....

SUCCESS:

At age 4 success isNot piddling in your pants.

At age 12 success isHaving friends.

At age 17 success isHaving a driver's license.

At age 35 success isHaving money.

At age 50 success isHaving money..

At age 70 success isHaving a drivers license.

At age 75 success isHaving friends.

At age 80 success isNot piddling in your pants.

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Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health

Services Act Becomes Law

President Obama signed historic legislation (S. 1963) yesterday that provides comprehensive support to caregivers of severely disabled veterans, a central plank of DAV's Stand Up For Veterans platform. The legislation finally reached the President's desk after more than two years of discussion, debate and negotiations, resulting in substantial new benefits for caregivers, including stipends for thousands of financially strapped family members.

As it stands, the benefits of the new act apply primarily, though not exclusively, to veterans and caregivers of veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. the act also requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) "...to provide hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for certain Vietnam-era veterans exposed to herbicide, and Gulf-War era veterans who have insufficient medical evidence to establish a service-connected disability" but contains little else specific to veterans of the pre-9/11 era other than to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to "...submit a one-time report on the feasibility and advisability of expanding the program to cover veterans who have a serious injury incurred or aggravated before September 11, 2001."

The new Law Also Boosts Women Veterans Health Care Programs will boost women veterans health care programs for the nation's 1.8 million women veterans. DAV worked closely with Senator Patty Murray (WA) and Congresswomen Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (SD) while drafting the legislation to address many of the obstacles women face when seeking health care at VA medical facilities. As enacted, VA will for the first time cover the costs for up to seven days of post-natal care for newborn infants of women veterans receiving maternity services at VA facilities.

Stand Up for Veterans is an initiative of the Disabled American Veterans.. Please visit www.standup4vets.org to learn more about this effort.

Stand up for veterans. They stood up for us.

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DID YOU KNOW

By Norm Willoughby

“All Systems Go” The phrase derives from the space program - it literally and figuratively means that all preflight checks have been made - "all systems are go (ready)" - and the launch countdown can proceed. As with many catchy phrases, it has migrated into common usage in business and elsewhere with its meaning intact - everything is ready.

COURAGEOUS RESTRAINT **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

In the war in Afghanistan, making sure you kill the enemy and no one else can take a ton of discipline and even courage. General Stanley McChrystal, who is the commander in Afghanistan, calls this discipline, "Courageous Restraint." It means even if someone on the ground is in trouble, you have to make sure you know what your target is and that you do your best not to hurt innocent civilians.

Sometimes not firing can be tough. Pilots say it's hard to watch their fellow soldiers on the ground taking fire. "We have to use restraint when it's tough," Col. Jack Briggs said. "We're listening to these kids on the ground, and they're taking fire."

Editors Note: Maybe I'm wrong, but if it comes down to it, I'm on the soldiers side. It's easy for the rear echelon brass to push "courageous restraint" when it's not their lives on the line.

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Middleboro area Vets needing a ride **to the Brockton VA**

The Nathan Hale Veterans Outreach Center offers a
Middleboro Transportation Schedule

Monday and Wednesdays

8am picking up at:

American Legion Post #64

13 South Main Street

Middleboro

Arrival at Brockton VA 9 am.

Depart Brockton VA at 11am

Additional pick up at 2 pm

The Nathan Hale Center is also opening a counseling center in
Middleboro – call 508-747-2003 for more information.

THE FORGOTTEN WAR

June 25, 2010, will mark the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War in which more than 36,000 American servicemen and servicewomen died and more than 110,000 were wounded in action.

DAV Post 57 would like to thank all of those Korean War and Korean era veterans who served their country to fight the evils of totalitarianism and communism – you have our gratitude.

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