



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

Taunton, MA 02780

Website:

<http://davtaunton.tripod.com>

E-Mail - Davch57@yahoo.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS 508 -823-0409

Commander	Mort Morin
Sr. Vice Commander	Leroy Crossman
Jr. Vice Commander	Francis Ardita
Adjutant	Paul Waldron
Treasurer	Martin Fox
Chaplain	Armando Medeiros
Officer of The Day	James Zahar
Sergeant At Arms	Stephen Horton
Service Officer	Frank Ardita
Quartermaster	Norman Willoughby
Legislative Officer	Bill Blight
Armorer	Mort Morin

Nov. Dec. 2009

Volume 7 Number 2

Page 1

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

We've had our holidays, our feast days, our days of oh's and ahh's and days of groaning from the shrinking(?) waistline of our shirts, skirts and pants.

Now, it's time to get down to serious business. We have to consider who will be running the show in the coming years. We have to plan on how to pay for our building, now that we have one. We ought to be giving some consideration to how we are going to take care of our constituency, those brothers and sisters less well off than we are. The simple fact is that our goal of assisting the wartime disabled American veteran, his spouse and dependents boils down to each and every one of us making a concerted effort.

Let's consider some items. I've been commander for a long time. We need to replace me. My parts are wearing out. The legs don't move up and down like they used to; the fingers aren't as nimble as they were and a few of the other organs don't make the right kind of music. We have office hours five weekdays and two weeknights and only three Chapter Service Officers. This means that claimants and others seeking information aren't able to get it "right now". We need more trained and certified Chapter Service Officers. The Chapter maintains a TV program, a website and a newsletter. How many of you have contributed to their maintenance by writing or assisting in other ways?

We visit Brockton VAMC Building 2 pretty much on a monthly basis. Bringing pizza and other life sustaining foods, canteen books, entertainment and other service to our less fortunate brothers and sisters. The same faces show month after month. Do any of you have a spare fourth Tuesday of the month? Bill Laliberte and Norm Willoughby do a lot of traveling seeking things for our patients, our claimants, our fellow warriors. Can any of you chip in and give a hand?

I'm going to pitch three more things this month. Please, come to the meetings. We are trying to run a chapter that represents you and your needs. If you don't participate it opens up the issue of whether or not the chapter represents your interests. Next, there are many of you who physically can't make it to a meeting. You are represented by your TV, newsletter and website; communicate with them. Last, please make a financial contribution to our administrative fund. We really need money to put the building in the shape it should be (like new upstairs windows) as well as providing the niceties that we'd like to have. Any amount is acceptable; we'd even love monthly contributions of five or ten dollars.

Thanks, Mort

December Meeting

Traditionally, we have combined the regular December meeting with a Christmas Party. This year was no exception. However, we returned to the Elks Lodge rather than going back to the Holiday Inn.

The meeting was an abbreviated session with two agenda items of note. First, we voted money to pay for thermostats and for repairs to the plumbing from the second floor bathroom. Next, we voted to spend money for a particular item for the Homes for Our Troops house for S/Sgt. Michael Downing, one of our Chapter members. The home should be ready for occupancy in March.

The committee setting up the activities evolved around Quartermaster Norm Willoughby, Treasurer Pete Fox, Sergeant at Arms Steve Horton. They did a masterful job. Chief scrounger/salesman Bill Laliberte assisted in his usual way; he got Art's Bakery involved and assisted with the flowers. For the first time there were NO complaints, not one, not a single murmur of dissatisfaction. The meal was catered by Chef Ray Sirois, of Sirois Catering, who turned out a masterful meal. There was a Steamship Roast, almost as big as a steamship, a Prime Rib, just in case the roast ran out, ziti, salad, steamed vegetables, Chicken Parmesan, bread and butter, coffee and tea and soda. Arts International Bakery donated a fully decorated sheet cake, half white and half chocolate, loaded with frosting, sprinkles and flowers.

There was a money drawing and a drawing of poinsettias as well as the usual "look under the chair to find the winner" for the table flower pot. Several things of note made this meeting a bit different. First, everyone scheduled showed up, except for Les Spousta who isn't well. Lorie Mathias walked out of the room with the bone from the roast. The bone was wrapped in a garbage bag and it looked as if it was almost as tall as Mort. (Of course, her dog is bigger than Mort.) The third item of note, Chef Ray donated a wooden model of a Huey chopper to the Chapter. The model was made by a former POW who has moved to Thailand and gone into business there. Fran Cheney, former chief helio mechanic, had a hard time keeping his hands off of the model; he was always adjusting the rotor blades so that they would bite and provide lift.

There were several comments to the effect that the Installation Dinner ought to be a repeat of this one.

Chapter 57 Salutes "Homes For Our Troops"
and the great work they do on behalf of the
nations injured Servicemen and Servicewomen
across United States.

CH. 57 MEETINGS

Third Tuesdays of each month

Except July & August

Meeting time - 6:30PM

5-7 Taunton Green

Taunton, MA.

MEETING DATES

Jan. 19, 2010 – Regular Meeting

Feb. 16, 2010 – Regular Meeting

Mar. 16, 2010 – Regular Meeting

Appoint Nominating Com.

To canvass members that wish to run for office for 2010 -2011

Apr. 20, 2010 – Regular Meeting

Election of Officers for 2010 - 2011

May 18, 2010 – Short Meeting by reservation only.

Installation of Officers

June 15, 2010 – Regular Meeting

RECENTLY DEPARTED**COMRADES**

NO
NEWS
IS
GOOD
NEWS
IN
THIS
SECTION

**PRIZE DRAWING
UPDATE**

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

PRIZE DRAWINGS

\$25.00 Attendance Door Prize:

November – Mort Morin

December – No Drawing

Christmas Party

57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Here we are again at the end of the year. To quote the line in a song, "Gee, it's funny how time slips away". The year has gone!! How many New Year resolutions did you keep? It is Time for new ones and the following MIGHT BE WORTH LOOKING AT!!

**TAKE TIME****Unknown Author**

Take time to think - It is the source of all power.

Take time to read - It is the fount of wisdom.

Take time to play - It is the source of staying youthful and young at heart.

Take time to be quiet - It is the opportunity to seek wisdom.

Take time to be aware - It is the opportunity to help others.

Take time to love and be loved - It is God's greatest gift.

Take time to laugh - It is the music of the soul.

Take time to be friendly - It is the pathway to happiness and good deeds.

Take time to dream - It is what the future depends on.

Take time to pray - It is the greatest power on earth that gives comfort.

Take time to work - It is the necessary precursor of success.

Take time to give - It is too short a life to be selfish.

There is a time for everything.

I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful Holiday season and a prosperous New Year! Please notify me of any illness or passing of members at **508-822-4837** God Bless Armando Medeiros

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 Commander Morin at his number listed below. 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

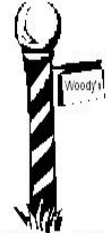
If you would like to assist Chapter 57 at **Homes For Our Troops**, Call Sgt. at Arms, Steve Horton, for more info at **508- 823-0409**.

We are in need of help in a variety of help at our new headquarters. If you can spare some time wallpapering, and painting **call Norm at 508- 823-0409**

For more information on other opportunities to help out **call Mort Morin at 508-823-0409** and help us in our commitment to Disabled Veterans.

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 we are finding that we just don't have enough people to cover all the events and activities. 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. Become active in your Chapter's activities.



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STRESS IN OUR LIVES

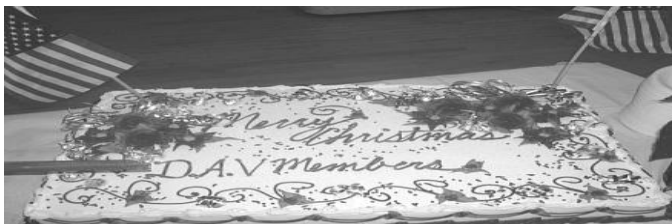
Stress is part of our daily life from meeting deadlines to the idiot in the car in front of you. Stress is difficult for scientists to define because it is a subjective sensation associated with varied symptoms that differ for each of us. In addition, stress is not always a synonym for distress. Situations like a steep roller coaster ride that cause fear and anxiety for some can prove highly pleasurable for others. Winning a race or election may be more stressful than losing but this is good stress.

Increased stress increases productivity – up to a point, after which things rapidly deteriorate, and that level also differs for each of us. It's much like the stress or tension on a violin string. Not enough produces a dull raspy sound and too much an irritating screech or snaps the string – but just the correct degree of stress creates a beautiful tone.

Similarly, we all have to find the right amount of stress that permits us to make pleasant music in our daily lives. You can learn how to utilize and transform stress so that it will make you more productive and less self-destructive.

You can learn more about stress at www.stress.org

CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY CAKE DONATED BY ART'S INTERNATIONAL BAKERY



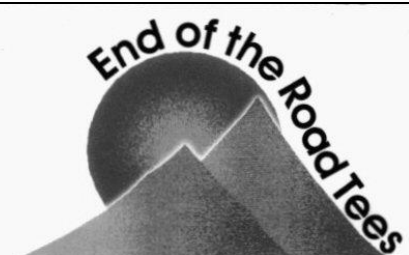
ALCOHOL ABUSE:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, excessive alcohol use is the third leading lifestyle-related cause of death in the United States linked to approximately 79,000 deaths annually during 2001–5.1 The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has reported that the holiday period is the deadliest time of year for alcohol-related traffic deaths. In addition to drunk driving, domestic violence rates increase during the holidays. Financial obligations for gifts or travel and too much family togetherness can cause stress and lead to cases of domestic violence. Alcohol does not cause abuse in a relationship, but according to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 75% of domestic violence cases, the offender is drunk at the time of the offense. Here is a countdown of the top five things you should know to help reduce alcohol abuse during the holiday season:


- Five ... It's not the type of alcoholic drink, but the amount of alcohol consumed that affects a person.
- Four ... A standard drink contains 0.6 ounces, or 1.2 tablespoons, of pure alcohol. Generally, this amount of pure alcohol is found in: 12 ounces of regular beer or wine cooler OR 8 ounces of malt liquor OR 5 ounces of wine OR 1.5 ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits or liquor (e.g., gin, rum, vodka, whiskey)
- Three ... Binge drinking is five or more drinks during a single occasion for men and four or more drinks during a single occasion for women.
- Two ... Heavy drinking is more than two drinks in a day for men and more than one drink in a day for women.
- One ... The Department of Defense developed a Web site and ad campaign to raise awareness of the negative effects of excessive alcohol use. For details, visit www.thatguy.com. Tricare's awareness Web page is www.Tricare.mil/alcoholawareness. It explains binge drinking, alcoholism and underage drinking.



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BROTHER / SISTER – CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?

We own our own "home". How many of you have seen it? How many of you have made a contribution toward maintaining it? Shame on you. For 75 years Cpl. William F. Reardon Chapter 57 has been engaged in serving the wartime disabled American veteran, his widow and his dependents in Taunton and the surrounding towns. It took us 74 of those years before we were able to have a place to call our own. We were beggars; we were homeless. You wanted a home. You got a home. Now, you neglect your home.

I'm asking each and every one of you to please take a look and see if you can make a contribution to a Chapter 57 Administrative Fund. We cannot, as you know, spend any of the Forget-Me-Not money on administrative costs; that money is solely for disabled veterans and their dependents. Purchasing the building set up for water bills, electric bills, waste removal bills and a bunch of other bills and debts. The fact that we are a charitable non-profit make things a little easier for us. But, the fact remains that we are property owners and like the rest of them there are expenses that will be constantly rising up to hit us between the eyes.

Will you please make a special effort to fund an administrative account that we can use to clean up, renovate and equip our new building? We've already replaced the heating system, fixed the plumbing, done this and that. Fifty or a hundred dollars would be wonderful. Ten or twenty dollars would be gratefully received. A dollar or two would help - ('course, I'll be coming back for more later). I know that there are members who can't spare even a dollar. Maybe, they'll be able to spare an hour or so cleaning up or painting. For you see, there is a great deal of work to be done and many ways to accomplish our goal - pleasant and workable quarters.

Contact Mort, Norm or Pete at **508- 823-0409** to contribute.



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WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING

Chapter 57 started the winter holiday season off with the usual activities: DAV Day at the Brockton VAMC and the Taunton Annual Christmas Parade. These are perennials and enjoy the same day each year – the first Sunday in December.

Because of this, which we as a chapter have no control, we have to spilt up into two crews, one for the VA and the other for the city. Quartermaster Norm Willoughby headed the VA contingent. He had JVC Frank Ardita, SAA Stephen Horton, OOD Jim Zahar and Jim Gray as assistants. They worked the first floor of Building 4 passing out goodies for the patients. Jim Zahar volunteered to provide help to the group doing Building 2. According to Norm everything went much smoother this year than it has in the past.

Commander Mort Morin had a bigger group; consisting of SVC Leroy Crossman, Treas. Pete Fox, Chap. Armando Medeiros, Asst. Chap. Dan O'Connor, Color Capt. Lorie Mathias and a slew of others. There was Allied Council Pres. Ed Hall, Walt Campbell, Abe Haynes, Greg Sullivan, Bill Laliberte, Ed Nunes, Louie Demers, Norm #2 Record, Mike House, John Fielding, Ferdy Medeiros and Don Ryan. Don and Ferdy were Chapter Banner Carriers the entire parade route. Greg, Bill and Pete ran up and down the line handing out candies to the young and old children lining the parade route. Mort, Dan, Mike, Louis and John were drivers; the others were designated candy pitchers, showering the spectators with candy. Mort lead off the vehicles driving a Mazda Miata. Leroy was the designated a candy pitcher with his granddaughter "Princess" Cassidy Rose, standing behind Mort, assisting in getting rid of the goodies. Then came Mike House and his candy Pitchers and Dan O'Connor with his car load of sweet throwing people. John drove a pickup truck loaded with toys furnished by Metro Motors; these were distributed by Metro employees. Metro Motors had a second pickup loaded with toys and games following John. The toys and games were distributed to the parade spectators by 11 Metro employees who walked alongside the trucks. Next came Louis driving, a red Mustang convertible.

It was quite a day for Chapter 57. Metro Motors of Raynham,, who have been supplying Chapter 57 with parade vehicles ever since we started participating, were overly generous. They provided us with 4 autos and a pickup truck and brought yet another pickup with their own driver. Both pickups were loaded with toys and games – 2000 of them! As a special surprise, VP Dominc Greico, the local boss, brought his father Michael Greico, Sr., the owner of the Raynham, Connecticut and Florida Greico automobile operations, along as one of the participating toy and game distributors.



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VETERAN'S DAY ACTIVITIES

Above, Chapter 57 Color Guard and Members line up for the Ceremony at the WW I Doughboy Statue on Taunton Green.



The Chapter 57 Contingent preparing to present the wreath at the WW II Monument. Below in front of the Headquarters Bldg.



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**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. We are grateful for this and for the groups and families that have responded. Please consider donating to this fund.

CONTRIBUTORS

\$1 - \$50

Frank Ardita, Mort Morin

\$50 - \$99

Robert M. Leavitt

Chapter 57 is very grateful for the response by not only our members but to the community to our Administrative and Building Fund. These donations allow us to maintain our presence in a central facility in the City of Taunton.

It is important for veterans to have a place not only where help with claims is available, but also to have a place to interact with other disabled veterans. This facility provides the interaction between and among our group.

We have classes at the building as well as our own meetings and indeed some District and Department Meetings, as some of our members are officers in these levels of the DAV.

As we counted on one another before, we are confident that we can count on you now and in the future to help maintain this building for the future.

Your donations are responsible for the renovations of the first floor, a new heating system, re-pointing the back brick wall, replacing the rotted area around the back door and new carpet and flooring on the first floor. A home you can be proud of!



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WHAT'S IN THE 2010 VA BUDGET?

The Senate, early in December, approved a bill which will set 2010 spending for the Department of Veterans Affairs (by a 57-35 vote). The bill now heads to the White House, where the president is expected to sign it into law before the end of the month.

For the VA, the \$109.6 billion fiscal 2010 budget represents a big boost from last year -- up more than \$15 billion from 2009. Vets groups have hailed the inclusion of advance funding for fiscal 2011 (\$48 billion due Oct. 1, regardless when then fiscal 2011 budget is actually passed) as the cornerstone of the bill, but it's not the only good news for veterans.

Here are some of the other highlights:

**** OEF/OIF vets:** \$2.1 billion specifically for the health care needs of veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, a \$463 million increase over last year. That includes new research and treatment programs for mental health issues and traumatic brain injuries.

**** Claims processors:** \$1.7 billion to hire roughly 1,200 additional claims processors to reduce backlogs and claim processing time.

**** Homeless vets:** \$3.2 billion for healthcare and support services for homeless veterans.

**** Electronic records:** \$3.3 billion to develop the next generation of electronic healthcare record

**** Women veterans:** \$183 million to "meet the unique needs of women veterans" and respond to criticisms of a male-dominated VA system.

**** Rural services:** \$440 million to continue outreach to vets living in remote areas of the country.

**** Prosthetic research:** \$581 million (up \$71 million from last year) for research in spinal cord injuries, burn injuries, polytrauma injuries, and sensory loss.

**** VA construction:** \$1.9 billion, including \$1.2 billion for new hospitals and clinics and \$50 million for the renovation of vacant buildings on VA campuses to be used as housing for homeless veterans.

****Under a separate budget, there is a new VA Clinic being built in Plymouth that could save Veterans having to travel to Brockton for some services**

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;

1/16/10, 2/23/10, 3/23/10, 4/27/10, 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.

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Were you aware that Massachusetts Veterans with a disability of 10% or more and who have resided in Massachusetts for five years or longer are eligible for property tax exemptions from \$400 per year to a total exemption for paraplegic veterans. The amount of the exemption is determined by the severity of the disability. In specific situations, the exemption is extended to certain family members.

The Massachusetts law that governs these exemptions is M.G.L. ch. 59, s.5, clause 22 through 22E and M.G.L. ch. 58, s.8A.

Amounts of exemptions are:

Clause 22 and Clause 22D: \$400.00

Clause 22A: \$750.00

Clause 22E: \$1,000.00

Clause 22B: \$1,250.00

Clause 22C: \$1,500.00

Chapter 58, s.8A: Total exemption

To apply, contact the assessor's office in your community. Application must be made annually.



CHAPTER RECIEVES PAPER SHREDDER



Member Ed Nunes (right) presented a shredding machine to Assistant Adjutant Norman Willoughby. Thanks to Ed and his donation the confidentiality of personal info is more enhanced.

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FUNNY STORIES

STRIKE THAT

A Texas attorney, realizing he was on the verge of unleashing a stupid question, interrupted himself and said, "Your Honor, I'd like to strike the next question."

LAWYERS DOG

A lawyer's dog, running around town unleashed, heads for a butcher shop and steals a roast. The butcher goes to the lawyer's office and asks, "if a dog running unleashed steals a piece of meat from my store, do I have a right to demand payment for the meat from the dog's owner?" The lawyer answers, "Absolutely." "Then you owe me \$8.50. Your dog was loose and stole a roast from me today." The lawyer, without a word, writes the butcher a check for \$8.50. The butcher, having a feeling of satisfaction, leaves. Three days later, the butcher finds a bill from the lawyer: \$100 due for a consultation.

WARNINGS

1. Consumption of alcohol may cause you to tell the same boring story over and over again until your friends want to assault you.

2. Consumption of alcohol is the leading cause of inexplicable rug burn on the forehead.

ACT TOUGH

When little Reggie was inducted into the Army, he was advised to act tough." That's the only way to command respect in the Army," his friends said. So Reggie did his best to carry out the advice. He swaggered all around camp, bragging, blustering and talking out of the corner of his mouth. "Show me a sergeant and I'll show you a dope," Reggie shouted. No sooner had he spoken than a brawny, battle-hardened figure appeared. "I am a sergeant!" he bellowed. "I am a dope," whispered Reggie.

CAN I

A doctor has come to see one of his patients in a hospital. The patient has had major surgery to both of his hands. "Doctor," says the man excitedly and dramatically holds up his heavily bandaged hands. "Will I be able to play the piano when these bandages come off?" "I don't see why not," replies the doctor. "That's funny," says the man. "I wasn't able to play it before."

GOOD HEALTH

Doctor: You're in good health. You'll live to be eighty.

Patient: But, doctor, I am 80 right now.

Doctor: See, what did I tell you.

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WOMEN BACK FROM COMBAT UNNOTICED

The Defense Department bars women from serving in assignments where the primary mission is direct ground combat. But the nature of the recent conflicts, with no clear front lines, puts women in the middle of the action, in roles such as military police officers, pilots, drivers and gunners on convoys. In addition to the 120-plus deaths, more than 650 women have been wounded.

Former Army Sgt. Kayla Williams, an Iraq veteran said "People didn't come up to us and thank us for our service in the same way. They didn't give us free beers in bars in the same way when we first got back"

Genevieve Chase, 32, of Alexandria, Va., a staff sergeant in the Army Reserves, said the same guys who were her buddies in Afghanistan didn't invite her for drinks later on because their wives or girlfriends wouldn't approve. "One of the hardest things that I had to deal with was, being a woman, was losing my best friends or my comrades to their families," Chase said.

"We just want to know that when we come home, America has our back," Chase said. "That's the biggest thing. Women are over there. You want to feel like you're coming home to open arms, rather than to a public that doesn't acknowledge you for what you've just done and what you just sacrificed." More than 230,000 American women have fought in those recent wars and at least 120 have died doing so, yet the public still doesn't completely understand their contributions on the modern battlefield. Our sister veterans have earned their place at the table.

LOOKING

Do you know any recently returned veterans that need claims assistance, have questions about claims or not sure if they have a claim? Please have them contact Chapter 57's Headquarters at 508- 823-0409 or visit us 7 Taunton Green in Taunton, MA. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 – Noon and two evenings per week. Please call for the evening appointments.

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TAUNTON, MA. TEL. 508-822-1951

KOREAN COLD

I sit here looking out the window at the first big snow of the year and a memory of my first Korean winter comes flooding back. I arrived in South Korea in January, 1968. The temperature was regularly in the teens and single digits and the strong winds coming off of the mountains made it feel even colder. I had a parka and thermal pants with insulated mukluk boots along with mittens that had a trigger finger. The tent I was living in had a wood frame and plywood floor with a kerosene stove in the middle. There was a chow hall that served three hot meals a day and all of the coffee that you wanted. We used a chart that told us how long we could stay outside based on temperature and wind speed - a wind-chill chart. That Korean cold is the barometer I use to measure all other "cold" by. I've never encountered such cold since then, and I hope I never will.

My hat is off to all of those vets who fought in the Korean war without such luxuries as I enjoyed 15 years later. The Korean War will never be a forgotten war to me as long as there are cold winds to remind me that there is cold and then there is "Korean Cold"

Korea was a turning point in the way that wars were prosecuted, in that for the first time the United Nations was involved. There were cold relations between the various allied nations and between the US Generals and the politicians. It was a war of not only cold air and ground, but of nations, people, newspapers, magazines the populace None of whom could seem to agree.

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

MASSACHUSETTS BONUS UPDATE

Governor Deval Patrick recently signed legislation that increases the state's cash bonuses for military personnel who serve multiple Afghanistan or Iraq tours under the state's "Welcome Home Bonus" program. The new law also enhances access to state contracts for disabled veterans. You are eligible if you meet the following criteria:

Six months domicile in Massachusetts immediately prior to entry into the armed forces service, beginning September 11, 2001, and discharge under honorable conditions. Next-of-kin of eligible service members killed in action may receive the Welcome Home Bonus if the veteran had not already received it. Payment is applicable to:

(a.) Service members who served active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan receive \$1000 and 50% of the bonus after each subsequent deployment

(b.) Service members with six months or more active service, stateside or outside the continental limits of the United States, receive \$500.

HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

The Taunton based Homes For Our Troops is building a new home for Chapter 57 Member Staff Sgt. Mike Downing of Middleboro, MA. Mike was wounded in Afghanistan. Mike. The home should be ready in a short time. In one weekend the weatherproof shell was erected by many, many volunteers.

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