



**Cpl. William F. Reardon**  
**MA. Chapter 57**  
**"The Can Do Chapter"**  
**Chapter 57 Newsletter**  
**P.O. BOX 57**  
**Taunton, MA 02780**

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**CHAPTER OFFICERS 508 -823-0409**

Commander	Leroy Crossman
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Jr. Vice Cm'dr.	William Laliberte
Adjutant	Paul Waldron
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Chaplain	Don Ryan
Officer of The Day	James Zahar
Sergeant At Arms	Stephen Horton
Service Officer Dir	Mort Morin
Quartermaster	Norman Willoughby
Legislative Officer	Bill Blight
Armorer	Mort Morin

**November/December 2010**

**Volume 8 Number 4**

**Page 1**

**COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

2010 is over. 2011 is here. Another decade has gone by. We, as a chapter, have accomplished a great deal; although as individuals we've grown older and older and older.

QTMR Norm Willoughby has done an outstanding job. He's got NC Bill LaLiberte and TREAS Jimmy Zahar and a couple of other characters involved in a very successful Christmas Dinner Meeting, on one hand. On another hand, he's gotten ADJ Paul Waldron" AADJ Denise Furtado, Jim Zahar and Art Brunell working like beavers attacking second floor renovations. By the time you read this the back room should be set -up as a storeroom and work should be well underway to create office space upstairs.

We should have our Financial Report submitted with help from Ferdi Mederios and Dave Trzeciak. Both have been involved in working non-profit organization financial records and have volunteered to help TREAS. Zahar in making the transition from PTREAS Pete Fox's records. Pete, by the way, sends his thanks to all of you who have visited and/or held him in your prayers. As an interesting sidelight to his condition, although he has extremely limited motor control he can feel it when you touch him. (He's not ticklish, I've discovered.)

We have participated in the Taunton Christmas Parade again. (See the separate article.) And the chapter has once again been involved in the DAV Day activities at the Brockton VAMC. Paul Waldron, Norm Willoughby, SAA Steve Horton" Denise Furtado and Art Brownell all made an appearance and helped distribute largesse for the patients. The first Sunday in December is scheduled for both the Parade and DAV Day, so, the chapter does have the problem of being in two places at the same time.

It seems as if we have just started a new term for officers and we have to start considering who we want to put into office for the next term. A word to the wise - start evaluating your current officers. Do you want to consider them for the next term? Have they lived up to or exceeded your expectations? Do you really want them back in the same or even in a higher office? We will be looking for a Nominating Committee very soon. Maybe you want to be on it. You definitely should be considering providing them with some input before they make their recommendations. Remember - YOUR chapter is only as good as YOUR officers and YOU elect them.

Thanks to all of you who have given of your time, money and effort in all of the chapter's activities, that are part and parcel of our being of service to our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

**WRITING A NEWSLETTER AIN'T EASY**

One of the purposes of this newsletter is to report legislation that will have an impact on the DAV and DAV members - and it isn't easy. How can you report the facts without reporting the flaws. How can you report the flaws without seeming to be partisan.

Consider the horrendous condition the economy is in and the negative impact it has had on us, our children and even our grandchildren as the President and the Congress ignore reality and spend our future away on growing the size of the government bureaucracy and on every pork barrel dream the Congress has ever had. They dither over "Don't ask, don't tell" and making illegal aliens "legal" while ignoring the very real conditions that lead to the financial crisis. They give themselves and everyone in the government hefty pay hikes while doing nothing for the retired and disabled folk on Social Security and VA Disability pensions who will get no COLA for the second year in a row due to a negative CPI. Both political parties point the finger of blame at each other while helping each other to get more for themselves and the special interests they serve. In 2008, lobbyists spent 3.3 billion on Congress - that's more than 6 million per year each for all 535 members of Congress.

All of us served our country and paid a price through our disability. Many of us put 20 or 30 years into the military and retired with honor. Many of us have worked all of our lives and have paid into Social Security, SSI and Medicare. Many of us are still working with an expectation that we will get what is due to us when we retire. Yet all of that is in doubt.

A presidential commission has suggested many cuts to "entitlements" while I have not seen one serious recommendation to cut government or government spending. Recommendations to cut costs by privatizing the VA medical system and by increasing Tricare premiums are surfacing on a regular basis. Meanwhile, there has been no COLA increase for the past two years, saving the government tens of billions of dollars which the Congress immediately spent on "earmarks".

When the government has cut itself to the bare bone and has reduced spending to the point where it hurts, I will be ready to listen to them about cutting my "entitlements" - until then, I will fight them tooth and nail to keep what is rightfully mine and then to secure a future for my grandchildren.

Ronald Reagan said "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same." He was right!

**CH. 57 MEETINGS**

Third Tuesdays of each month

Except July & August

Meeting time - 6:30PM

5-7 Taunton Green

Taunton, MA.

**MEETING DATES**

January 18, 2011

February 15, 2011

March 15, 2011

April 19, 2011

May 17, 2011

June 21, 2011

**RECENTLY DEPARTED**  
**COMRADES**

Manuel S. "Mike" Carveiro, 86, on Nov. 16, 2010

Louis E. Dion, 97, on Nov. 18, 2010

57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER**



"May the forgiving spirit of  
to whom we dedicate this sea  
prevail again on earth.

May hunger disappear  
and terrorists cease  
their senseless acts.

May people live in freedom,  
worshipping as they see fit,  
loving others.

May the sanctity of the home  
be ever preserved.

May peace, everlasting peace,  
reign supreme."



**DATE?**

A soldier was seriously wounded on the battlefield and was unable to speak when he regained consciousness. Wishing to know how long he had been unconscious, he took a piece of paper and a pencil from the bed stand, wrote "Date?" on it and gave it to his nurse.

She handed it back to him - after she had replied with the word "Married."

**THE BABY!**

At 3 AM in the morning, a young wife shook her husband awake.

Groggily he asked "What is it?" "The baby," she reminded him.

The husband sat up and listened intently. "But I don't hear her crying," he protested.

"I know, and it's your turn to see why not!"

**NEW PROGRAM SPEEDS**  
**APPROVAL FOR VIET VETS**

The VA has decided more than 28,000 claims in the first six weeks of processing disability compensation applications from Vietnam Veterans with diseases related to exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange.

"With new technology and ongoing improvements, we are quickly removing roadblocks to processing benefits," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We are also conducting significant outreach to Vietnam Veterans to encourage them to submit their completed application for this long-awaited benefit."

Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam and who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease, or a B-cell (or hairy-cell) leukemia are now eligible for health care and disability compensation benefits.

Vietnam Veterans covered under the new policy are encouraged to file their claims through a new VA Web portal at [www.fasttrack.va.gov](http://www.fasttrack.va.gov). Vietnam Veterans are the first users of this convenient automated claims processing system.

If treated for these diseases outside of VA's health system, it is important for Veterans to gather medical evidence from their non-VA physicians. VA has made it easy for physicians to supply the clinical findings needed to approve the claim through the new Web portal. These medical forms are also available at [www.vba.va.gov/disabilityexams](http://www.vba.va.gov/disabilityexams).

The portal guides Veterans through Web-based menus to capture information and medical evidence required for faster claims decisions. While the new system currently is limited to these three disabilities, usage will expand soon to include claims for other conditions.

VA has begun collecting data that recaps its progress at [www.vba.va.gov/VBA/agentorange/reportcard/index.html](http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/agentorange/reportcard/index.html).

**PRIZE DRAWING**  
**UPDATE**

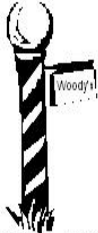
We have a \$25.00 door prize drawing at each meeting. Every member in attendance has a chance to win. You must be in attendance and present when the prize is drawn.


**PRIZE DRAWINGS**

**\$25.00 Attendance Door Prize:**

March - Ed Hall

April - Francis Creney

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**CHAPTER 57 IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



The Picture isn't very good, but you're looking at our own Don Ryan and Arthur Brownell who made the big times when their picture made it into the Massachusetts DAV newspaper, The Point in an article written by our own Past Commander Mort Morin.

The DAV Point article discusses the duties of the local CSO (Chapter Service Officer) who is instrumental in helping vets make an initial filing for a claim or file for a change to a claim. The CSO is given intensive training by the DAV and must be certified before he can help a vet – the CSO gets paid nothing for his time, other than the satisfaction he gets from helping a brother or sister veteran.

Chapter 57 boasts the services of nine CSOs who are ready and waiting to help anyone who needs help getting through the red tape and over those first few steps in a claim with the VA.

**CHAPTER 57 VAMC PARTY PROGRAM**  
**VA BUILDING 2 PIZZA PARTY'S**

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), on the fourth Tuesday of each month as follows;

- 12/28/2010
- 01/25/2011
- 02/22/2011
- 03/22/2011
- 04/26/2011
- 05/24/2011
- 06/28/2011 Ice Cream Social
- No JULY, AUG, SEPT**
- 10/25/2011
- 11/22/2011
- 12/27/2011

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

**WALK WITH US**

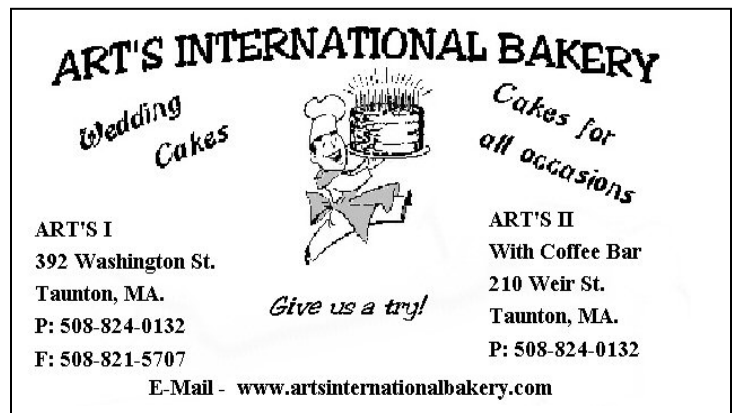
We are still looking for and Honor Guard members. We hope to be able to perform rifle volleys with the M-1 Rifles at ceremonies. Please contact The Chapter Quarters at 508-823-0409 The Honor Guard and Color Guard will perform as a Unit

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

You have given of yourselves in the past. You can still serve you fellow veterans and countrymen, just in a different way than before.




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The Silver Star is the third-highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of any branch of the United States armed forces for valor in the face of the enemy.

The Silver Star is awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States not justifying one of the two higher awards - the service crosses (Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross), the second-highest military decoration, or the Medal of Honor, the highest decoration. The Silver Star may be awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the armed forces, distinguishes himself or herself by extraordinary heroism involving one of the following actions:

- \* In action against an enemy of the United States
- \* While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force
- \* 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

**CONGRESS WANTS TO CUT YOUR BENEFITS**

The Congress has spent trillions of dollars over the past few years for “stimulus” packages, government growth and pork barrel projects, that has knocked the economy to its knees and placed the United States in debt to the tune of 14 trillion dollars. The economy continues to nose dive and there is no more money for Congress to borrow and spend, so they must now start cutting back. Rather than cut the size of government and their pet pork barrel projects, the Congress has been focusing on entitlements such as Social Security, Veterans Benefits and other entitlement programs while ignoring the behemoth, money sucking government bureaucracy they have created.

You can fight back by letting your Senators and Representative know that you will not support them if they vote to cut your benefits before they cut government and government spending to the bare bone. Cut government, not benefits to people who have earned those benefits through hard work and sacrifice. Our financial life and the economic future of our grandchildren is at stake and must be protected.

The letter is the most popular choice of communication with a congressional office. If you decide to write a letter, here are some helpful suggestions that will improve the effectiveness of the letter:

Make it legible and neat. Legible handwritten letters and well-typed letters are both effective.

Think about your letter as having three paragraphs, or parts.

The opening part should clearly state your position and why you hold it. Urge the Member of Congress to take specific action (e.g. vote for/against a particular bill or amendment; co-sponsor a bill; etc.) The second part should give more information on the bill/action in question and evidence supporting your position. The third part should be a brief summary and provide final encouragement. When possible, somewhere in your letter you should also try to thank your Member for some action they've taken in the past.

Senator John Kerry  
218 Russell Bldg.  
Second Floor  
Washington DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-2742

Senator Scott Brown  
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## THE CHRISTMAS PARADE

On December 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter 57, once again, fielded the largest veterans contingent in recent years in the Taunton Christmas parade. We had the Chapter Banner carried by "Princess" Cassidy-Rose Crossman and Jack Crossman. This was followed by members Bruce Crossman, Ferdinand Medeiros, Greg Sullivan and JVC Bill Laliberte tossing out salutes, candies and holiday greetings.

They were followed by the Taunton High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps providing color guard service for Chapter 57. Cadets Christopher Baptiste, Elizabeth Curt, Zachary Ostenson, Robert Sampson and Kameron Westcott preceded the Chapter's five vehicles, bearing the National Colors, State and Chapter flags and escorting rifles. CDR LeRoy Crossman and PCDR Mort Morin led a five (5) vehicle cavalcade, furnished by the Metro Motor Group, containing Terry Akika, Walt Campbell, John Fielding, Jim Gray, Mike House, PCDR Ed Nunes, Dan O'Connor, Abe Haynes and Norm Record. This band of scruffy characters emulated our marchers by passing out their own holiday greetings, salutes and goody distribution.

Our rear guard consisted of two (2) Ford pickups with 2,000 toys and games furnished by Metro Motor Group's Vice President Domenic R. Grieco. Mr. Grieco was assisted by his father and almost a dozen of his employees in walking the parade route passing out their largess. This is a repeat performance that Metro Motor has provided for a number of years. Actually, without their contribution it is doubtful if we older folk would be able to participate in the Middleboro and Taunton parades.

## OTHER THAN HONORABLE DISCHARGE

Veterans advocates say there is a troubling trend within the United States' fighting force: increasing numbers of service members discharged from duty for misconduct and other disorders who are suffering from the mental wounds of war. Once dismissed under other than honorable (a.k.a. Bad Paper) discharges, many find themselves unable to get the help they need for mental health issues that might have sparked the misconduct. Veterans' advocates see cynical forces at play in the use of administrative discharges for reasons including misconduct, personality disorder and adjustment disorder — defined as an excessive reaction to a stressful event, with symptoms similar to PTSD.

Some Vets Advocates concerned about military's adjustment disorder discharges report: "The military has been discharging troops who are suffering from combat stress, instead of providing treatment." That would mean that many" who have been discharged for "adjustment disorders" but who "could be afflicted with mental health conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, have left the service without official medical diagnoses and no chance for medical benefits." After several attempts to get discharges data from the Pentagon, four Senators called on Defense Secretary Robert Gates in a letter last week to pry the information loose." The article went on to state that many of the soldiers who received Other Than Honorable Discharges had served multiple tours.

## 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

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Chapter 57 is very grateful for the support of the Administrative and Building Fund. These donations provide a place not only where help with claims is available, but also to have a place to interact with the wives and widows, as well.

Your donations are needed on an ongoing basis to ensure we have a properly maintained home for OUR Chapter.

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**MORE ENTITLEMENT CUTS SUGGESTED**

The President’s National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform co-chairs, former Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) and former chief of staff to President Clinton, Erskine Bowles, released a 58 page initial plan which includes the following military pay and benefit related proposals:

A Federal Pay Freeze – The plan’s most volatile suggestions is a three-year military and federal civilian employee pay freeze. In general, the freeze would affect basic pay and basic allowance for housing (BAH).

Eliminate the 20 Year Military Retirement – The plan calls for replacing the current 20-year retirement system with a plan that would allow retirement at 10 years but delay payment until age 60. This would presumably affect future military entrants.

Reform COLA – The panel suggests making the military retirement/annuitant and disability compensation annual cost-of-living adjustments formula reflect consumer shopping options – essentially reducing the annual increase.

Increase TRICARE Premiums and Co-pays — Premiums and fees would climb for working-age military retirees, enrollment fees and co-pays would be applied to all three TRICARE options, including fee-for-service coverage under TRICARE Standard and the preferred provider network using TRICARE Extra.

In addition, employers would have to reimburse the government for any military retiree who opts to use TRICARE over employer offered programs.

**DON’T ASK. DON’T TELL**

Following earlier action by the House of Representatives and the Senate to end “don’t ask, don’t tell”, President Obama plans to sign the bill to repeal the ban called on openly gay service before the end of the year 2010,

In letters to the troops over the weekend, the four military service chiefs warned that the ban is still in place, and will be for some time to come.

There will be no public displays of affection, no separate bathrooms, no harassment and no special treatment for any members of the United States Armed Forces.

As the U.S. military begins to map out how it will implement the new edict allowing gays to serve openly, the first order of business is drafting the regulations. The rule changes under discussion won't dictate how troops feel about the change, but will strictly enforce how they act on it.

**DAV CHRISTMAS PARTY**

A fine time was had by everyone who attended the annual DAV Christmas party.

A quick meeting was held before the festivities took place. Prime beef and stuffed chicken were the main courses along with bread, gravy, various vegetables and garden salad. The meal was delicious.

The desert was a marbled chocolate and vanilla cake with the DAV logo done in icing on top of the cake – the cake tasted as good as it looks in the picture. It was Donated by Art’s International Bakery



**SUPPORT THE TROOPS**

Chapter 57 made its presence known at the Middleboro Oak Point Veterans “Support The Troops” function. The Greater Taunton chapter made a donation in addition to the appearance of Commander Leroy Crossman, Walt Campbell, Bill Blight, Dave MacNeill, Dave Treziak, Ed Nunes, and Dolores Akaka along with Don Triner and Bob Burke, Oak Point veterans and DAV members who hosted the gathering.

The entertainment was excellent with some great patriotic songs being sung by some very talented young ladies and letters home from deployed soldiers of WWII, Vietnam and Afghanistan/Iraq being read. One was a heart rending letter from a WWII soldier to his son performed by a local vet and his son.

The event funds care packages to deployed troops. A local vet who has been deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan gave a quick explanation of how appreciated the care packages were. He spent a minute or two discussing the two favorite items in the packages – beef jerky and letters to the soldiers from students at one of the local elementary schools.

**Medical Insurance Cuts Delayed**

Medicare and TRICARE payments to Doctors were set to be cut by 25 percent on January 1, 2011. Congress has postponed the pay cut until January 1, 2012 - the latest of several such delays this year. But this has not addressed the issue. Many feel

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**What is a calorie?**

Calories are those little sob's that get into your wardrobe at night and sew your clothes tighter.

**Single & Bored?**

During a conference, I was pleasantly surprised to be seated next to a very handsome man. We flirted casually through dinner, then grew restless as the dignitaries gave speeches. During one particularly long-winded lecture, my new friend drew a # sign on a cocktail napkin. Excited, I wrote down my phone number. Looking startled for a moment, he flipped the napkin over and drew another # sign, this time adding an X to the upper-left- hand corner.

**Shout it out!**

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs.

I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE...  
I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO...  
I PRAY FOR A NEW VCR.

His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." To which the little brother replied, "No, but Gramma is!"

**Flag Waver**

Few people outside the military know what a Navy Quartermaster does (several duties include the watch-to-watch navigation and the maintenance of nautical charts and navigational instruments as well as duties that used to be part of the Signalman rating: visual communications).

So during my aircraft carrier's Family Day, I demonstrated a procedure called semaphore. I grabbed my flags and signaled an imaginary boat. When finished, I pointed to a little girl in front and asked, "Now do you know what I do?" "Yes," she answered. "You're a cheerleader."

**Cradle Robber?**

When I was a 20-something college student, I became quite friendly with my study partner, a 64-year-old man, who had returned to school to finish his degree. He confessed, with a wink, that he had once thought more than friendship might be a possibility between us. "So what changed your mind?" I asked him. "I went to my doctor and asked if he thought a 40-year age difference between a man and woman was insurmountable. He looked at my chart and said, 'You're interested in someone who's 104?!'"



**DID YOU KNOW**

By Norm Willoughby

In the Armed Services, a military cadence or cadence call is a traditional call-and-response work song sung by military personnel while running or marching. In the United States, these cadences are sometimes called jody calls or jodies, after *Jody*, a recurring character who figures in some traditional cadences.

As a company was returning from a long tedious march through swamps and rough country, a chant broke the stillness of the night. Upon investigation, it was found that a soldier by the name of Willie Duckworth, on detached service with the Provisional Training Center, was chanting to build up the spirits of his comrades.

It was not long before the infectious rhythm was spreading throughout the ranks. Foot weary soldiers started to pick up their step in cadence with the growing chorus of hearty male voices. Instead of a down trodden, fatigued company, here marched 200 soldiers with heads up, a spring to their step, and happy smiles on their faces. This transformation occurred with the beginning of the Duckworth Chant.

Upon returning to Fort Slocum, Pvt. Duckworth, with the aid of Provisional Training Center instructors, composed a series of verses and choruses to be used with the marching cadence. Since that eventful evening the Duckworth Chant was made a part of the drill at Fort Slocum as it proved to be not only a tremendous morale factor while marching, but also coordinated the movements of close order drill with troop precision.

This original cadence was recorded as "Sound Off:"  
*Sound-off; 1 - 2; Sound-off; 3 - 4; Cadence count; 1 - 2 - 3 - 4; 1 - 2 — 3 - 4.*

This cadence, known as the "Duckworth Chant," exists with some variations in many different branches of the U.S. military. Duckworth's simple chant soon was elaborated by folk tradition among Drill Sergeants and the soldiers under their command, and the tradition of creating elaborate marching chants or songs spread to other branches of the military

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### **THE SILENT RANKS**

I wear no uniforms, no blues or army greens.  
But I am in the military in the ranks rarely seen.  
I have no rank upon my shoulders. Salutes I do not give.  
But the military world is the place where I live.  
I'm not in the chain of command, orders I do not get.  
But my husband is the one who does, this I can not forget.  
I'm not the one who fires the weapon, who puts my life on the line.  
But my job is just as tough. I'm the one that's left behind.  
My husband is a patriot, a brave and prideful man.  
and the call to serve his country not all can understand.  
Behind the lines I see the things needed to keep this country free.  
My husband makes the sacrifice, but so do our kids and me.  
I love the man I married. Soldiering is his life.  
But I stand among the silent ranks known as the Military Wife.

### **NEW YEARS QUOTABLE QUOTES**

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.  
- Bill Vaughn  
People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas  
- Unknown

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

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### **Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses**

VA's Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force issued its final report, which details how VA will improve medical care and services for Veterans of the 1990-1991 Gulf War.

Some of the recommendations outlined in the report are:

- Improve the delivery of benefits to Veterans with Gulf War-related disabilities.
- Expand training for VA benefit examiners on how to administer disability claims with multiple known toxin exposure incidents.
- Find new treatments for Gulf War Veterans through new research.
- Enhance outreach to provide information and guidance to Veterans about benefits and services available to them for injuries and illnesses associated with Gulf War service
- Improve VA health care for Veterans through a new model of interdisciplinary health education and training.
- Increase number of long-term, Veteran-focused studies.
- Transition from reactive to proactive medical surveillance to help better manage Veterans' potential hazardous exposures.
- surveillance to help better manage Veterans' potential hazardous exposures.