



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 -828-1808

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
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| 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 |

September / October 2008

Volume 6 Number 1

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COMMANDER’S MESSAGE

It's time to start digging in our heels and proving that we are in business to take care of our disabled veterans and their families. We cannot lean back and say that "Last year I/we did/gave so much that this year is a time to coast and rest up for next year."

We've got a full schedule ahead of us for the Forget-Me-Not Drive. We need volunteers to man/woman the collection stations. We cannot take care of our audience/brothers and sisters/clients/disabled veterans/whatever you want to call them without putting in time and money. We need to spend time with them and in collecting money for their needs. Each hour that you spend soliciting money brings in a few more dollars that we can contribute. We don't volunteer - we can't contribute. YOU volunteer - YOU are contributing.

We've absolutely got to volunteer to prevent going backwards. We've committed ourselves to a Color/Honor Guard. It started out with one U.S. flag and a DAV flag. Now we have two of each and a State flag with a MIA/POW flag on order. We, also, have two Chapter 57 banners for the Honor Guard. Additionally, we were able to write off the 11 rifles that were assigned to and disappeared from the Chapter years ago. Now, we have four rifles that are accounted for and used. From a non-participating organization to a premier veterans parade organization, in two cities, we have climbed up the participating ladder. We need bodies to man/woman the banners, flags and rifles. We are extremely fortunate in having Lorie Mathias, a member of the Department Color Guard, transfer in to Chapter 57. Lorie wanted to become involved in an active chapter. We're it. She's volunteered to captain our Color Guard. Volunteer to work with her.

September starts the new cycle in Building 2 at the Brockton VAMC. We've been active there for a couple of years. We know some of the patients by name and they know some of us by name. Think of it. We "work" chronic psychiatric wards. Would you want to spend your life there? Would you welcome a little bit of change of pace in your life? If you don't volunteer these patients, our brothers and sisters, will be deprived of whatever good we can bring to them. Remember that old saying; "There but for the grace of God go I." We will be starting back September 23rd Call Pete Fox to volunteer.

Those are just three of the areas that you can make a contribution to by volunteering. There is another equally important area that you can make a solid contribution toward Chapter 57. Attend meetings on a regular basis and contribute of your knowledge and experience.

Will we see you?

THREE CHAPTER MEMBERS GUESTS ON THE FIFTY SEVEN TELEVISION SHOW



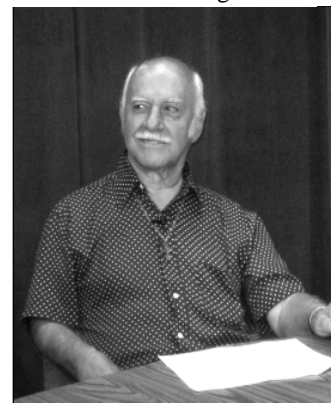
Comrade John Fielding

Three of our Comrades were recent guests on the “Fifty Seven Show”, the Chapter’s Cable TV

Show, that is aired in ten towns. Comrade John Fielding related his experiences as a U. S. Air Force Veteran. He talked of his early training, his duty stations in the Far East, including, Korea, Japan, Okinawa as well as his time in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He told a story of when he was a

young Air Policeman in Japan. He was driving a Jeep and got into a traffic jam. Unable to go further he investigated and saw the Emperor in a horse drawn carriage. That was still a rare sight.

Comrade Ed Nunes was in the U.S. Army in World War II. He Found himself on a troopship on the way to Europe, shortly after his initial training. He arrived as a replacement in Italy and shortly was assigned to the 36th Infantry Division. His first combat was after being involved in the invasion landings in Southern France. He was wounded near the town of Besancon in eastern France. Ed was hidden from Germans by a French family until he could be evacuated.

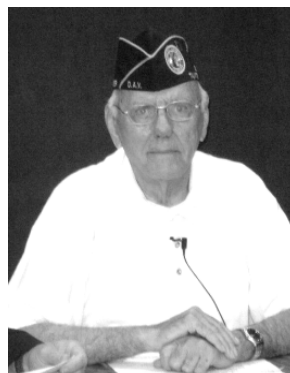


Comrade Ed Hall was involved in three wars. World War II. The war ended as he was traveling the Pacific and he found himself on Occupation Duty in Japan.

Next he found himself serving in the Korean War and then the Vietnam War.

He is one of the breed that seems to find himself in bad situations and survives to tell the tale.

Ed was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious performance along with other decorations and medals.



Comrade Ed Hall

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:

July and August -No Meetings
Meetings resume 16 September 2008

Membership Prize

(If not present the prize is forfeited).
July and August -No Meetings
Meetings resume 16 September 2008

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 :

Sept. 16, 2008 - Regular Meeting
Oct. 21, 2008 - Regular Meeting

RECENTLY DEPARTED

COMRADES

- Leo Joseph Gamache July 2008**
US Army WW II
- Adam Bagdon July 2008**
US Army WW II
- Joseph R. Mora August 2008**
U.S. Army WW II
- Robert E. Doherty August 2008**
US Army Air Force WW II

57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Whoa! What happened to our Summer? This year it just seemed to disappear. Before long we'll be raking leaves and battering down the hatches to make ready for our Nor'east Gales.



As we age it seems that time moves more swiftly! The question isdoes it?

When we were children we did not feel the passage of time. Everything was very far off and seemed like it would never get here. This perception continues to early adulthood.

In early adulthood we begin to see the far shore of the Sea of life. As we journey closer to the far shore we perceive time by birthdays, holidays, retirements, others deaths and other measures of time. It is not just the time clock that we use in our perception. We are on a boat, with no steering being driven by an invisible force.

We know we are aging but it is perceived differently by various people. For some it is the new aches and pains, for others it may be becoming a parent, grand-parent, retired, more free time, grey hair and a sundry of other events and things. Whatever it is the boat keeps on sailing, life's turbulent waters.

When Jack Benny reached 39. he chose to remain at 39. Although we all know he didn't and was unable to stop the clock. Nobody has ever found the "Fountain of Youth". When you think about it....would we really want to? Can you imagine a retirement age at 500 years old and can you imagine what the traffic would be like with all those people!

Our aging has a lot to do with how we feel. Those that stay active, and involved are more likely not to really notice that passage of time. The more you do makes time seem go slower. Stay active, do something today...take care of other people and God's earth.

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.

The work of the Chapter continues to expand. We used to take the Summer off. Now, we still have the TV Show, Cookouts, Forget-Me-Not Drive and newsletter to get out and assisting at Homes For Our Troops. We can always use help from new members.

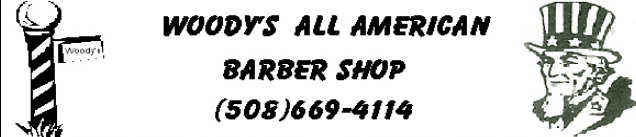
Our 2008/9 VA Medical Center parties will resume in the Fall It would be great to see new volunteers at these events. This means a lot to the hospitalized Veterans please volunteer its only 1-1/2 hours a month out of your time, that's not asking a lot of you to put a smile on a vet's face. All parties begin at 6:30 pm in Bldg. 2. Meet at the front entrance of the building. The parties this year were a huge success and we actually got things running like clockwork.

If you would like to assist Chapter 57 at **Homes For Our Troops**, 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. We need both members and alternates.

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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Thur. - 9:30 - 5:30
Fri. - 9:30 - 5:30
Sat. - 9:30 - 3:00

TCAM TV Update
By Kimberly Matthews

I thought I would take this opportunity to update readers on some things that are going on at TCAM TV. TCAM TV is local public access Channel 15 in Taunton.

This past month, the D.A.V.'s very own "57 Show" celebrated their 3rd Anniversary program. That went by fast! This program was #37, for the 57 crew. It's been wonderful working with this group for the past 3 years, and I can honestly say, the talent and crew only continue to get better and better. Congratulations guys!

The second week in August, TCAM TV sponsored our very first Youth Video Camp, for children ages 12-17. Students participated in a week long program that included learning the concept of storyboarding, and training on our mini dv cameras and Final Cut Pro editing systems. At the end of the week, each student produced, with their group, a completed music video. We plan to hold more camps in the future. If you know of an interested student, please feel free contact me at 508-824-2207.

TCAM TV is in the process of constructing a website. The site will include pictures of the studio and show hosts, information about our shows and programs(such as tours, trainings, etc.) that the studio offers. Please look for our new website address in the next issue of the newsletter.

CHAPTER 57 VAMC PARTY PROGRAM

Our ongoing program to provide entertainment and fun for our hospitalized brothers and sisters will begin again in September. As always we can use volunteers to help out. As the old saying goes...many hands make for light work. Please consider helping us out with this endeavor. Call Mort Morin at 508 828-1808.

The schedule for the 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.

- 23 Sept 2008 28 Oct. 2008 25 Nov. 2008**
- 23 Dec. 2008 27 Jan. 2009 24 Feb. 2009**
- 24 Mar. 2009 28 Apr. 2009 26 May 2009**
- 23 June 2009**

We meet at 6:00 – 6:15pm at the entrance to Building #2, the night of the program. Please save this article as a reminder of the dates of this important program.

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Number of tickets _____ x **\$25.00** each = \$ _____

(Please indicate choices by number, not a check mark if ordering more than one ticket)

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The map shows the location of Mill Stores Plaza at the intersection of Quequechan Street and Braydon Ave. in Fall River, MA. Major roads 24, 8A, 34, and 195 are also indicated.

ENJOY LIFE AND ALL IT HAS TO OFFER

The following came from my nephew and his wife. I'm not really sure of the significance or the connotation of this piece. Maybe, they think that at my age I needed the advice. They don't realize that I'm getting younger! Maybe that what their really saying is that life is really short and to go ahead and enjoy it when you can. Well anyway here was their story.

One day I had a date for lunch with friends. Mae, a little old "blue hair" about 80 years old, came along with them---all in all, a pleasant bunch. When the menus were presented, we ordered salads, sandwiches, and soups, except for Mae who said, "Ice Cream, please. Two scoops, chocolate."

I wasn't sure my ears heard right, and the others were aghast. "Along with heated apple pie," Mae added, completely unabashed. We tried to act quite nonchalant, as if people did this all the time. But when our orders were brought out, I didn't enjoy mine. I couldn't take my eyes off Mae as her pie a-la-mode went down. The other ladies showed dismay. They ate their lunches silently and frowned.

The next time I went out to eat, I called and invited Mae. I lunched on white meat tuna. She ordered a parfait. I smiled. She asked if she amused me. I answered, "Yes, you do, but also you confuse me. How come you order rich desserts, while I feel I must be sensible? She laughed and said, with wanton mirth, "I'm tasting all that is Possible. I try to eat the food I need, and do the things I should. But life's so short, my friend, I hate missing out on something good. This year I realized how old I was. (She grinned) I haven't been this old before." So, before I die, I've got to try those things that for years I had ignored. I haven't smelled all the flowers yet. There are too many books I haven't read. There's more fudge sundaes to wolf down and kites to be flown overhead. There are many malls I haven't shopped. I've not laughed at all the jokes. I've missed a lot of Broadway hits and potato chips and cokes. I want to wade again in water and feel ocean spray on my face. I want to sit in a country church once more and thank God for His grace. I want peanut butter every day spread on my morning toast. I want un-timed long distance calls to the folks I love the most. I haven't cried at all the movies yet, or walked in the morning rain.

I need to feel wind in my hair. I want to fall in love again. So, if I choose to have dessert, instead of having dinner, then should I die before night fall, I'd say I died a winner, because I missed out on nothing. I filled my heart's desire. I had that final chocolate mousse before my life expired."

With that, I called the waitress over.. "I've changed my mind" I said. "I want what she is having, only add some more whipped cream!"

DAV BEGINS "SECOND LIFE" VIRTUAL WORLD



What is Second Life? Second Life is an online, computer, 3D virtual world developed by Linden Lab. It provides an immersive environment where users are able to create a digital character, or "avatar", and interact with people from around the world.

Second Life allows users or 'residents' to come together to engage in a range of activities including socializing, attending musical events, playing games, shopping, running businesses, building, collaborating, attending meetings and presentations and undertaking training and education. What makes Second Life unique is that the world is 100% user-generated - that is, everything you see and experience in the world is created by the residents - and residents retain intellectual property rights over everything they create.

Why is DAV using Second Life? Today's DAV membership is a new generation; one who enjoys different forms of social interaction. The notion of attending a fraternal meeting in a chapter hall does not always appeal to these new members. So how do we get them more involved?

One way will be through our new Virtual DAV. Created online in Second Life, this social networking tool will provide the DAV with a new avenue of outreach, social interaction and advocacy. This type of newer technology reaches a younger generation since it supports a networking structure with which they are familiar. More importantly, it will provide an opportunity for physically disabled members to get involved using a virtual environment to interact and collaborate.


We are hopeful that our members who physically cannot get to chapter meetings will have a greater sense of participation and belonging to the organization. Through illustrative scenery, and some very cool graphics, DAV members will have areas for training, viewing presentations or merely brainstorming together as a group. **Go to dav.org for more information.**



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ATTACK ON THE PORT OF BARI

In 1943 the Allied Forces in Italy were engaged in the battle for Rome. A most important thing is to keep the front line troops supplied. The Port of Bari, Italy was being used as part of the supply route.

On 2 December 1943, intelligence had concluded that there was no longer a serious threat of German bombing raids because the German Luftwaffe had lost so many aircraft. The Allies were in for a surprise. The Germans managed to put together a bomber force of 20 JU88 Bombers, a very effective aircraft, for a night raid against the Port of Bari.

There were thirty ships of Polish, Dutch, Norwegian, British and American registry sitting in the Port. The city contained about 250,000 civilians. Of course, feeling confident that there was no threat of an air raid the port was lighted, to speed the unloading of supplies. The Germans sent in pathfinder aircraft to drop chaff to confuse Allied radar stations. The JU88's began their bombing runs.

Two munitions ships were hit and the resulting explosions shattered windows six to eight miles away from the Port. A large fuel oil pipe line on the dock area was severed and the fuel ignited. The burning fuel spread over much of the Port and engulfed ships, that had not been hit by bombs. The raid lasted just over one hour.

When the raid was finished, seventeen Allied ships had been sunk. The port was out of use for four months. There were 1000 military and Merchant Mariner deaths and another 1000 civilians killed. This was what prompted the name "The Second Pearl Harbor". This is not the end of the story.

One ship, a US Liberty ship, the John Harvey had a secret cargo onboard. It was World War I mustard gas bombs. Officially known as M47A1 Bombs. Each bomb contained about 65 pounds of sulfur mustard. This material spilled into the Port when the ship was destroyed. Sailor that abandoned their sinking ships swam through the combination of burning oil and mustard gas. Medical personnel treated the visible injuries but were not aware of the Mustard Gas. Prolonged exposure caused more serious injuries. Most of the John Harvey's crew died. The USS Bistera picked up survivors and put to sea. During the night most of the crew went blind from the effect of the gas.

The Allies covered up the fact that the ship was carrying Mustard gas, because they didn't want the Germans to find out and launch a preemptive gas strike. The incident remained under wraps. US records of the incident were declassified in 1959, but didn't come to light until 1967. In 1986 the British government admitted to survivors that they had been exposed to poison gas. Was the gas there to be used? We'll never know!

UPDATE ON THE CHAPTER 57 CORPORATION OWNED BUILDING



The former Chapter 36 building is still for sale and still rented. Members of the Chapter have looked at a couple of different properties that are currently for sale. They would not meet the needs of the Chapter and at this point all options remain open.

Of all the options the best would be for all concerned would be to have an acre of land, close to utilities, in Taunton, donated to the Chapter. The Chapter could then reduce the selling price of the Middleboro building, hopefully allowing the Church to buy it.

This would allow the Chapter to have a modular building erected on the donated site. In this way the donor would be serving both God and his fellow man.

If you know someone with land in Taunton that meet the criteria we would like to talk with them

STAND UP FOR VETERANS

More than 300,000 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan are suffering traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), severe depression and other conditions that could require a lifetime of care.

Yet the federal government is not providing sufficient, timely, and predictable funding to treat their visible and invisible wounds of war. Uncertainty about funding due to political wrangling could prevent veterans from receiving the health care they deserve.

Stand Up For Veterans is an initiative of *Disabled American Veterans*, an organization of 1.4 million disabled veterans founded in 1920, and who are focused on building better lives for disabled veterans and their families. The initiative seeks to find public policy solutions for all veterans, particularly those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, who have incurred devastating injuries and disabilities, including traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological wounds of war.

Petitions are circulating calling on Congress to Stand Up For Veterans by providing them with the mental and physical health care they need, and by passing new legislation to ensure sufficient, timely and predictable funding to pay for it. Please support this initiative by signing or writing to your Congress representatives.



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COURTROOM GOOFS

Lawyer: "Can you describe what the person who attacked you looked like?"

Witness: "No. He was wearing a mask."

Lawyer: "What was he wearing under the mask?"

Witness: "Er...his face."

Lawyer: "This myasthenia gravis -- does it affect your memory at all?"

Witness: "Yes."

Lawyer: "And in what ways does it affect your memory?"

Witness: "I forget."

Lawyer: "You forget. Can you give us an example of something that you've forgotten?"

Lawyer: "Now sir, I'm sure you are an intelligent and honest man--"

Witness: "Thank you. If I weren't under oath, I'd return the compliment."

STATEMENTS FROM AUTO INSURANCE CLAIMS

1. "I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way"
2. "A truck backed through my windshield into my wife's face"
3. "A pedestrian hit me and went under my car"
4. "In an attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole."
5. "I had been shopping for plants all day and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection a hedge sprang up obscuring my vision and I did not see the other car."
6. "I was on my way to the doctor with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way causing me to have an accident."
7. "An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished."
8. "I was thrown from the car as it left the road. I was later found in a ditch by some stray cows."
9. "Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have."
10. "I thought my window was down, but I found it was up when I put my head through it."

NEW CONTEST

FIVE DOLLAR PRIZE TO WINNING CAPTION



To submit a caption call 508 588-5245 if no answer leave it with your name, address & phone number on the answering machine. The winning caption will be in the next edition. The winner will be notified by telephone. Let's see if anyone is out there!

SEE THE WORLD WITH THE ARMY

Bill "What made you join the Army?" asked one.

Jim "Well, I read one of the posters that said: Join the Army and see the world!... And I been doin' it - a shovelful at a time."

BRAGGING

Two old men were boasting to each other about their army days.

"Why, my outfit was so well drilled," declared one, "that when they presented arms all you could hear was slap, slap, click."

"Very good," conceded the other, "but when my company presented arms you'd just hear slap, slap, jingle."

"What was the jingle?" asked the first.

"Oh," replied the other offhand, "just our medals."

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**CHAPTER 57 GEARING UP FOR THE COMING SEASON
OF ACTIVITIES**

We resume our activities in September after our two month break from meetings. Of course we have not been idle. We have done the newsletters, two television shows, administrative work and held our annual cookout.

On 16 September 2008 we resume our monthly meetings. This year we have more to accomplish. We will look at some of our past initiatives and programs and may discard some and adopt new ones.

There are the VA programs, Veterans Day, Christmas Parade and other things to deal with before the end of the calendar year. One of the good things is the input from our active members. They suggest new ideas, that keep us busy. A bad thing is the GREAT SILENT MAJORITY of our members.

We know that our silent members have ideas, but we never hear them. You don't need to attend meetings, although that would be nice. You can call us, write to us or arrange to visit us and let us know what we are doing right or wrong.

This newsletter is your newsletter. Write an article and send it in. Do you want to tell your story on the TV Show? We can arrange that.

Sometimes we think that nobody even reads this newsletter! If you do let us hear from you. Conversation is a two way street.

FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

In the United States, there are 11 federal holidays set by law. See U.S. Code Title 5 Section 6103. Holidays.

Under current definitions, four are set by date:

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| New Year's Day | January 1 |
| Independence Day | July 4 |
| Veterans Day | November 11 |
| Christmas Day | December 25 |

If any of the above fall on a Saturday, then Friday may be observed as a holiday by various institutions. Similarly, if one falls on a Sunday, then Monday may be observed as a holiday.

The other six are set by a day of the week and month:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Martin L. King's Birthday | 3rd Monday in January |
| Washington's Birthday | 3rd Monday in February |
| Memorial Day | Last Monday in May |
| Labor Day | 1st Monday in September |
| Columbus Day | 2nd Monday in October |
| Thanksgiving | 4th Thursday in November |

An eleventh Holiday is celebrated once every four years.

Every fourth year Inauguration Day is observed.

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Inauguration Day | 20 January 2009 |
|------------------|-----------------|

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
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