

# 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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Armorer

May / June 2009

# Volume 6 Number 5

# NEW QUARTERS DEDICATED

Page 1

# **COMMANDERS MESSAGE**

OUR NEW QUARTERS ON TAUNTON GREEN. I'M **ESTATIC! HERE ARE SOME PHOTOS** 



Commander Chapter 57 Morton E. Morin



Dept. of MA. Adjutant Dan Stack



Senator Mark Pacheco Speaks to the gathering.



Beau Doherty at his Father's desk in the Service Office



POW's / MIA's Remembered Photos by Terri Sweeney



Kathleen Doherty places Plaque honoring her father



Commander Morin presents the Plaque to Kathleen and Beau Doherty before thy placed it next to the door of the ROBERT E. DOHERTY SERVICE OFFICE, named in honor of their father.

The regular meeting on 16 June 2009 the Chapter 57 was a most important occasion in our Chapter's history. We welcomed members and guests to the first meeting in and dedication of two rooms within the building.

It has been through your generosity that we have been able to create an eye pleasing home for Chapter 57. The members and guests in attendance were happy to see that this old and historic building has been spruced up and is now being used as a place to provide service to our veterans. It will serve veterans from all the surrounding towns through it's service office.

The Service Office is dedicated and named for Robert E. Doherty, a very involved member of Chapter 57. He was a co-Host of the TV Show, Contributing video author of our Short Burst Series. He was always available for Chapter event, parades and the Forget-Me-Not Drive. Bob passed away last year and is missed by all he had contact with.. A separate article details Bob's WW II

The Meeting Room on the first floor is named in honor of our present Commander Morton E. Morin. It has been "on his watch" that Chapter 57 has gone from a moribund organization ten years ago to the vital and lively organization that exists today. Those of you that have been getting these newsletters have been witness to the positive changes and growth of this Chapter.

These two individuals are truly what the DAV is all about and that is **SERVICE TO OTHERS!** Photos by Terri Sweeney

# PRIZE DRAWING UPDATE

We have two different monetary prizes at each meeting. The first is a door prize with a chance being given to every member in attendance. It is \$25.00 for some lucky attendee at the meeting. Secondly, we have a Membership drawing which requires the member to be in attendance or forfeit the prize. The names of each individual member are maintained in a jar. One name is drawn at each meeting. This drawing is progressive, in that, the amount is increased each month until won by a member who is in attendance.

# PRIZE DRAWINGS \$25.00 Attendance Door Prize:

March– Bill Bright April – Ron Bettencourt **Membership Prize** 

(If not present the prize is forfeited). March – Thomas Tintle - Forfeited April – Steve Cravelho - Forfeited

## CH. 57 MEETINGS

Third Tuesdays of each month
Except July & August
Meeting time - 6:30PM
5-7 Taunton Green
Taunton, MA.
MEETING DATES

No Meetings in July or August Have a safe, enjoyable summer.

#### **MEETINGS RESUME**

Sept. 15, 2009 – Regular Meeting Oct. 20, 2009 – Regular Meeting RECENTLY DEPARTED COMRADES

James V. Nasise Army WW II John J. Sikorski Navy WW II Stanley J. Amora Army WW II

## **57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Well, we have a new "Home" for our Chapter. It is an exciting time for all of us. With the events of the past ten years one could see the rapidly moving events and growth.



The culmination of a lot of work

That has gone into the rebuilding of the Chapter is a result of FAITH. One might, at first confuse Faith as a religious word. However, it has many and varied meanings.

Faith is a feeling or belief in something that has no basis in fact or proof that our faith will be come to be.

We put faith in a person because we have faith in their ability. Many times we are right and sometimes our faith is misplaced.

Our belief in God is based on faith as is our faith in the various doctrines and teachings of the many religions that are found around the earth. This includes the Christian, Jewish, Islam, Buddhism, and a sundry of other religions. It also, is found with Agnostics and other non believers in that they have faith that their belief in something or in nothing is correct.

We have faith in codes of ethics, standards and oaths. We have faith in those taking the oaths to live up to them. Sometimes we find this faith to be misplaced.

We can break the faith by not living up to an obligation to a promise, oath, allegiance, engagement, or duty. We strive to keep these faiths placed in us. But, as we see we sometimes stumble and then we must strive harder to restore faith.

The idea of faith is abstract. We can't see it, touch it, taste it, smell it, see it. We hear it professed many times and we profess it ourselves verbally and through our thoughts.

Well, as you see FAITH is not unique to religion. It has many different applications. One of mine was that I had faith that one day we would see our own Chapter 57 Home. My faith in that belief has been fulfilled. God Bless till next time

Please notify me of any illness or passing of members at **508-822-4837** Armando Medeiros

# WALK WITH US

We are in real **need** of Color Guard and Honor Guard members. We hope to be able to perform rifle volleys with the M-1 Rifles at ceremonies. If interested contact Commander Morin as listed below. The Honor Guard and Color Guard will perform as a Unit

Our VA Medical Center Chapter Sponsored Parties are well underway. It would be great to see new volunteers at these events. The hospitalized Veterans look forward to this diversion from their routine. 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 final date, before Summer Break is June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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.

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 Paul at 508-588-5245

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 notes the praise that our Chapter receives from within and without the DAV community as a result of your our accomplishments actions. Keep up the good work!

Do something for others as 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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Sat. - 9:30 - 3:00

# CHAPTER 57 VISITS OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS



Pictured at Bethesda Naval National Medical Center are L to R Steve Horton, Norm Willoughby, Walter Campbell & Pete Fox.

At the end of April representatives of Chapter 57 traveled to Washington, D.C. to visit our Nations Wounded Warriors. The arrangements for the visits to Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed Army Hospital had to be scheduled ahead of time.

Steve, Norm, Walt and Pete had to contact the Hospitals Liaison Staff to arrange date and times, as the visits are escorted. They worked through the liaison People to help decide what they could bring to the hospitalized wounded. They made arrangements to stay at one the Navy Lodges, in order to keep costs down. The planning took almost two months.

The gifts they brought to our wounded warriors were simple but useful. They were told there was a need for weight lifting gloves. Why, you ask? The answer is simple they make operating a wheel chair a bit easier on the hands. They left other items that could be used in the PX and Commissary. The troops they visited with were really receptive when they found that their visitors were veterans themselves.

A secondary objective in going to Washington was to visit the various War Memorials in and around the Washington Mall. They video taped the World War II, Korean, and the Vietnam Wall and Vietnam Women's Memorial. This was done so that it could be used on the Chapter's TV Show. We know that many of our members and other veterans are not able to travel to Washington. By televising these Monuments as part of our show we are bringing the Monuments to the Veterans.

# PHOTOS FROM THE WASHINGTON TRIP

The picture at right is the pool at the World War II Memorial. The water sprays thirty feet into the air. The columns in the background represent the U S states and territories that participated in the war. The memorial is large and inspiring to all.





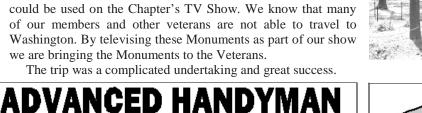
At the left is a close- up of one of the statutes at the Korean War Memorial. If you notice the one at the very back, he is not wearing a helmet. That is because he represents an Air Force Forward Air Controller. He had to wear a headset to use the radio to call air strikes

At Right is a statue at the Bethesda National Naval Medical Center. It is titled "Unspoken Bond" It depicts a Corpsman, better known as Doc., assisting a wounded warrior. This statue stands in a place of honor, as well it should.





At the left is the statue at the Vietnam Memorial better know as "The Wall". It is an emotional experience to visit this Monument. Friends names are there! It is even more emotional for family. It personalizes the war, as no other monument. 50,000 names!



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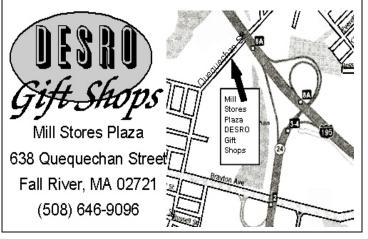
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# VA Health Care Enrollment Made Easier

VA health care eligibility rules changed on Monday, June 15, 2009, making it easier for more Veterans to enroll in VA's health care system. The VA has also provided a web-based calculator for Veterans to enter their income information, number of dependents, and zip code to determine if their income falls within the new income threshold adjustments. Veterans can check to see if they qualify under new rules for VA health care by visiting <a href="www.va.gov/healtheligibility">www.va.gov/healtheligibility</a>. Veterans are also encouraged to contact VA's Health Resource Center at 1-877-222 VETS (8387) for further assistance.

### **Liaisons Smooth Transitions To VA Care**

A sign of continuing progress toward improved synergy between Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense (DoD) in providing health care to injured service members from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom can be found in an innovative program that places VA health care liaisons in military treatment facilities (MTFs).

Aimed at helping make the DoD-VA transition and delivery of care smooth and seamless, the program has expanded greatly since it began in 2003.

In a presentation before representatives from several military and veterans service organizations during a meeting hosted by DoD's Force Health Protection & Readiness office in late May, Kathleen Dinegar, acting national program manager of the VA Liaison Program Care Management and Social Work Service, said the program started six years ago with just one liaison at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The VA now has 27 full-time social workers and nurses working as liaisons in 13 MTFs. Five additional MTFs with significant numbers of injured service members have been identified for future VA liaison assignments over the next several months.

# State House Boston - Bills Given Hearing on 24 June 2009

H.3372 Representative John Binienda An Act relative to the parking of motor vehicles at meters by certain persons.

H.3375 Representative Garrett Bradley An Act relative to the Vietnam War Bonus.

H.3376 Representative Geraldine Creedon An Act authorizing reimbursement to the town of Easton for veterans benefits expended in past years.

H.3378 Representative Paul Frost Resolve providing for an investigation and study of providing veterans with increased healthcare access.

H.3379 Representative William Lantigua An Act providing for a bonus for veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom.

H.3380 Representative Jim Miceli An Act relative to headstones for deceased members of the Massachusetts National Guard. .

H.3388 Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein An Act relative to the removal of veterans police and fire commemorative flag holders.

H.3401 Representative Thomas Stanley An Act establishing the Massachusetts GI bill for veterans.

H.3404 Representative David SullivanH.3845 Representative John Fresolowaivers for children of disabled veterans.

An Act protecting graves of veterans. An Act relative to provide tuition

Contact you Representative or Senator for current status.

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# Free Entry to National Parks

Free entry to 147 U.S. national parks will be available three weekends this summer: June 20-21, July 18-19 and Aug. 15-16. The National Park Service typically waives entry fees for everyone on National Public Lands Day (the last Saturday in September) and for military service people and veterans on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. But, this is the first time in 20-plus years that the fees being waived for entire weekends for the public

#### **Japan Apologizes for Bataan**

The Japanese Ambassador to the U.S., Ichiro Fujisaki, spoke at the 64th reunion of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor in San Antonio recently and offered an apology to veterans and their families for the Bataan Death March. About 73 surviving Bataan Death March veterans of the Army and former Army Air Corps, some of them bedridden, were in attendance. This may be the first time Japan has formally apologized to the veterans since the Death March was conducted more than 67 years ago, although Japanese leaders generally repeat a landmark statement of apology approved by the cabinet in 1995 on the 50th anniversary of Emperor Hirohito's surrender when discussing the Bataan Death March. For more information, educational materials, visit including National Museum of the U.S. Air Force Bataan Death March Fact Sheet and PBS's Bataan Rescue website.

Although it is difficult to establish exactly what happened to all the USAAF personnel on Bataan, the record of the USAAF"s 24th Pursuit Group illustrates the high price they all paid. Eighty-three of the group's 165 pilots were captured, 33 were killed, and 49 were evacuated. Of the 83 captured, only 34 made it home after the war -- 17 died in captivity and 32 more died on hell ships. Of the group's 27 non-flying officers, one was evacuated, one was killed, and 25 became POWs (15 died in camps or on ships). The enlisted men suffered equally. Of the 1,144 men at the start of the fighting, 16 were evacuated, 38 were killed, and the remainder became POWs, of whom over 60 percent died in captivity.



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## **CALL BY CHAPTER FOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

To: ALL Chapter 57 Members

From: Cdr. Mort Morin and Chapter 57 E-Board

Re: PLEASE Consider a donation

We have received permission from the Department and National to conduct an administrative fund raising campaign. We are soliciting our members. The monies raised will be to renovate and update our new quarters. (As you know, we cannot utilize Forget-Me-Not money for this purpose; FMN money is solely for services to disabled veterans and their families.) The money we realized from the sale of the Chapter 36 Middleboro building was used to purchase the K of C building; In Taunton There is barely enough left over to make the repairs and purchase necessary equipment. We must raise administrative money.

Will you PLEASE make a contribution? We are not planning to sell the naming of chairs or dishes if you make a donation. We won't even designate a parking spot in your name for a really B I G donation. The fact is that we won't even tell anyone if you did or did not make a donation. That is a very personal thing and we know that some of you are not financially able to donate.

What we would like is for everyone, whether you live in greater Taunton or not, to make a gesture of your faith in Chapter 57. As commander, I'm sure that the new quarters will serving Disabled American Veterans long after I've left Taunton to final quarters.

Please, send your contribution to:

DAV Chapter 57, Administrative Fund P.O. Box 57

Taunton, MA 02780

Donors names will only be published if so requested. Please indicate either PUBLISH or ANONYMOUS



**CHAPTER 57 COLOR GUARD MEMORIAL DAY 2009** 



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# **CHAPTER 57 ESSAY CONTEST**

1. ---- This contest is open to all Children, Grand Children and Great Grand Children of Members of Chapter 57.

2. ---- The Essay must be titled and about; "WHAT A MILITARY VETERAN MEANS TO ME"

3. ---- **PRIZES**;

FIRST PLACE ---- \$200.00 SECOND PLACE --- \$175.00 THIRD PLACE ---- \$125.00

# 4. --- ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN JULY 31, 2009

5. ---- Entries must be sent to;
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
CHAPTER 57
P. O. BOX 57
TAUNTON, MA. 02780

6. ---- WINNERS WILL BE ASKED TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL SUMMER COOKOUT ON AUGUST 15 2009 TO READ THEIR ESSAYS AND RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES.

# **MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES**

Chapter 57 participated in the Memorial Day Ceremonies and the Taunton Parade. The day started at 9;30am with the ceremony at the Civil War Monument in Mayflower Cemetery. It then proceeded to the World War I , World War II, Korea , Vietnam and Desert Storm Monuments.

Our Chapter Color Guard participated in all the Monument Ceremonies. Air Force Jr. ROTC Cadets carried the Chapter flag in the parade.

The Taunton Parade kicked off at 1:15pm and proceeded down Broadway, past the reviewing stand and then east on Main St., following Rt. 140 to just past the Nursing Home.

Vehicles for our use in the parade were loaned to Chapter 57 by Metro Motor Group of Raynham. They have been supplying Chapter 57 parade vehicles for several years. We are grateful to the Metro Ford family for their help and generosity.



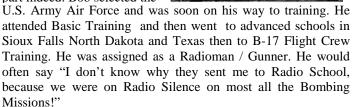
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#### ROBERT E. DOHERTY PROFILE

Robert "Bob" E. Doherty was born in Fall River, MA. He attended the lower grades of school in Fall River. His High School years were spent in Coyle High School.

When Pearl Harbor was bombed, Bob was playing cards with some of his friends. He would say "Ssshh"! Don't let my mother know!

It wasn't long before he had decided to join the military to do his part. Well, it was quite a part indeed. Bob selected the



After his training he was sent to England, where he was assigned to the 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group at Snetterton / Heath. Bob flew missions into Germany and France in his capacity as a Radioman / Gunner. He was destined not to make the required Twenty Five Missions and home. Everything has a first cause.

"The first cause of our being shot down in Mischief Maker II on 4 March was the extent to which we got shot up on 21 February over Brunswick. Just after bombardier Billy Wood confirmed "Bombs Away!" an FW 190 from Jagdeschwader 3 nearly blew away our vertical stabilizer. The hit staggered our aircraft: We lost speed and fell back immediately. However, while some of the crew held shredded control cables together in the rear of the fuselage, Paul Herring and Charlie Beard, pilot and copilot, muscled flight deck controls and reverted to the advantages of autopilot. Eventually we came home safely tucked under the wings of 339th Squadron buddies who slowed down to protect us. For every moment of that return trip I prayed and watched the slipstream behind my radio hatch as it tore at that hole with invisible fingers. And I marveled at the fact that our tail gunner, Chuck Haywood, had answered a check for casualties right' after the incident. From his tail position, Chuck had no idea of how fast the stabilizer was disappearing right over his head! He hadn't even been scratched!" Con't. right column

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#### **SHOT DOWN 4 March 1944**

"German Me-109s who, finding us alone and obviously in trouble, were determined to take us out of the war. We had just recrossed the Rhine when our tail gunner shouted the alarm over the intercom. Mischief Maker vibrated to the tattoo of 20mm fire. A quick check proved no one was hurt; but our veteran tail gunner, our ace in the hole, screamed that his guns were inoperable. Then Goetz announced that the Germans, having passed on ahead of us, were curving back. The Germans were smart. Having witnessed no defensive fire from the tail, they lined up for another attack from that quarter. This second time, they hit us with consequence. Mischief Maker shuddered as if to stall. I could smell grease and cordite and something else now – smoke!

Without warning I was smashed against the floor. Like a specimen butterfly pinned on a lab corkboard I was immobilized in a position only a contortionist could praise. Mischief Maker seemed to have expressed her death wish by hurtling from the skies in a 9G spiral dive. I remember seeing my chest pack on the floor beside me but I could not move so much as a little finger. During that "this-is-it" instant, the only thing that could possibly move UP was prayer and I guess ours did because we gradually pulled out and evened off. Paul set her on autopilot to give us all time and a stable platform from which to dive. Eventually, we all bailed out." No sooner had our chutes opened than we broke through the undercast where a lovely snowstorm waited. The snow wet the silk, made it heavy and dropped us like rocks. The time intervals between jumps seemed to make the difference as to which of us were rescued by the Belgian Resistance and which, like me, were captured.

Around 1400-hrs that 4 March afternoon, Walt, Swede, Ike and I were in the custody of the senior officer of a German garrison in Waterloo. We'd all been wounded or injured to some degree. Swede was the worst. Knocked unconscious when he landed, his chute dragged him face down over a plowed field which was less cushioned by snow than the one Mischief Maker had found. This commanding officer and his troops were ecstatic. And well they might be, for all four of us had bailed out straight into their damn garrison. They had four prisoners and the cost of hunting us down had been nil."

Bob spent the remainder of the war in various Pow Camps He said "Although being a POW is no fun, we were delighted to find Chuck Haywood and Roger Dearmon alive and well in the prison camps". 1 (1. Robert E. Doherty in Air Clasics 2005)

# TAUNTON COMMUNITY ACCESS



& MEDIA INC. CHANNEL 15



# Kimberly A. Matthews Executive Director

45 Main Street Tel. 508-824-2207 Taunton, MA. 02780 Fax. 508-824-5638 TCAM 15 - YOUR COMMUNITY CHANNEL Send us your funny stories. We'll use non offensive, family style jokes. Please include your name.

# FUNNY STORIES PHYSICAL TRAINING

While drilling a platoon of soldiers the instructor said "I want every man to lie on his back, put his legs in the air and move them as though he were riding a bicycle," he explained. "Now begin! "After a few minutes, one of the men stopped. "Why did you stop. Smith?" demanded the officer. "If you please, sir," said Smith, "I'm freewheeling for a while.'

### **NEW SUBMARINE ENSIGN**

The new Ensign was assigned to subs, where he'd dreamed of working since a young boy. He was trying to impress the Master Chief with his expertise learned in Submarine School.

The Master Chief cut him off quickly and said, "Listen, 'sir', it's real simple. Add the number of times we dive to the number of times we surface. Divide that number by two. If the result doesn't come out even, don't open the hatch."

# SUBMARINES ARE SAFER THAN AIRCRAFT

Submarines are safer than aircraft. The proof is that there are more aircraft in the water than there are submarines in the sky!

### **JOINING UP**

Having passed the enlistment physical, Jon was asked by the doctor, "Why do you want to join the Navy, son?" "My father said it'd be a good idea, sir." "Oh? And what does your father do?" "He's in the Army, sir."

# **PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE**

"Freeze the Moment", the digital photography class adapted to meet the needs of the hand-arm handicapped person is scheduled to begin in mid-August.

The course is built on the premise that with simple adaptation the individual with limited hand-arm use can take photographs as well as the non-handicapped person. A camera mount and shutter release adapter can eliminate the loss of/or limited hand-arm dexterity.

The course taught by Terri Sweeney (Some of whose Photos grace this issue.) will go beyond just snapping a picture. She will be going into framing the shot, editing, printing and displaying for optimum beauty and use.

The course is free and is open to you, your family members And neighbors. For further info call Mort Morin (508 828-1808) Or Terri Sweeney (508 245-4639). This program is supported in part by a grant from the Taunton Cultural Council, which is supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency.

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# <u>CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHAPTER 57'S</u> 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 are grateful for this and for the groups and families that have responded. Please consider donating to this fund.

# AMOUNTS and CONTRIBUTORS \$1-\$99

Anonymous, Joseph Fortes, Antone DaCosta, Robert Levitt, George Dubord, Marcel Richard

\$100 - \$199

Anonymous, Mike House,
Bill Blight, Ed Nunes,
John Courts, Dan O'Connor,
John Fielding Dorian B. Wylie,

Martin "Pete" Fox,

\$200 - \$299

Anonymous, Bill LaLiberte, Steve Horton, Mort Morin

\$300 - \$399

**Paul Waldron** 

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\$500 - \$699

**Anonymous** 

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# **CHAPTER 57 WILL HAVE OPEN HOUSE**

This October Chapter 57 will turn 75 years old. It has held together through war, peace, thick and thin. It is not just a club or organization. It is not one person or group of persons. It is all the members that make this organization. It is about providing service to America's Disabled Veterans and their families.

The Chapter will have an **OPEN HOUSE ON OCTOBER 3, 2009** at the **Chapter Quarters located at 5-7 Taunton Green**. The doors will open at **9:30am and remain open until 5:00pm**. We hope to see as many of you as possible at this event. It is not a meeting! It is an opportunity for you to stop by and meet the officers and other members. Share your thoughts and ideas. With 600 plus members we know you have some ideas and new strategies to share.

# NEW HELP GROUP TO BE FORMED

Are you having problems related to **PTSD** and can't find the help you need or your job makes going for help awkward or impossible, because of possible adverse employer actions. We will provide a safe secure atmosphere in which you may discuss with others the problems you face. Gain from others experiences and coping methods. YOU ARE NOT ALONE. We know you are out there so why not give this a try. For more information contact Commander Morton Morin at 508- 828-1808



Chapter 57 attendees at the DAV Department of MA. State Convention at the Four points Hotel in Fitchburg, MA. Seated left to right Paul Waldron, Adjutant, MA. Dir. Of Communications, Norm Willoughby, Ass't. Adj. & QM Ch.57, Pete Fox Treasurer, Ch 57 Standing left to right Mort Morin, Commander 57 & Dept. of MA. Board of Directors, Lorie Mathias, Color Guard Commander 57 & Dept. of MA. Color Guard Member and Ron Bettencourt, Dept. Communication Committee District 7 Representative.

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

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

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