



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

Commander	Mort Morin
Sr. Vice Commander	Leroy Crossman
Jr. Vice Commander	Bruce Crossman
Adjutant	Paul Waldron
Treasurer	Martin Fox
Chaplain	Armando Medeiros
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

November / December 2008

Volume 6 Number 2

Page 1

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

We've started the year off with a bang. Our Forget-Me-Not Drive topped last year. We've already gotten several hospital visits under our belt. Holiday and ceremonial affairs are in full stream; and the year has just gotten underway.

Treasurer Pete Fox and the rest of us high muck-a-mucks figured the nation's and world's poor economy was going to wreck havoc on our fund raising. It goes to show you that it's nice to be wrong once in a while. Adjutant Paul Waldron has figured out a game playing system that allows us to get the patients settled in, playing, game over and pizza distributed in about a quarter of the time it took us last year, making staff, patients and us happy. We've gotten several speaking engagements under our belt and unfortunately we have had the sad occasion of putting on several DAV Rituals for departed comrades at their family's request.

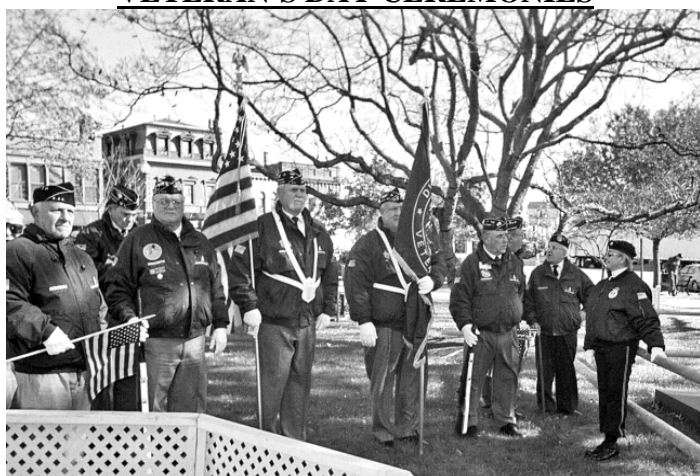
The chapter has had four new Service Officers certified. Chaplain Armando Medeiros, Asst. Chap. Dan O'Connor, Frank Ardita and Lorie Mathias were certified in a special training session. The chaplains are expected to be able to provide services for families of departed members and Frank and Lorie will be helping with Service Officer John Fielding and the mainstream cases as I work my way out.

Pete, Paul, Quartermaster Norm Willoughby and I attended a Line Officer Training Session where we were "straightened out" as to how to spend our Forget-Me-Not monies. It seems that the IRS (likeable organizations) has informed National that the IRS will be checking into the books of non-profits in the near future. Forewarned is forearmed.

This is one area that we have been quite good at. Our expenditure of F-M-N monies has been well within National's requirements. That is, we spend almost all we get during the course of a year. Further, we spend our F-M-N monies for services to our wartime disabled veterans, their widows, orphans and their dependents. We will be investigating new and more innovative ways to do this during the year.

I would really appreciate it if you would make a real effort to recruit new members. The lifeblood of any organization is working, contributing members. Those of us who are getting along in years need to be replaced with younger more vital members. These are the people who will be running Chapter 57 and the rest of the DAV long after I'm enjoying retirement. We have thousands of the War on Terrorism, Iraqi Freedom, and Afgan. Vets whatever you want to call the warriors out there. They are going to need assistance fighting bureaucracy in the coming years. DAV must remain strong; and, in numbers there is strength. Please, seek out new members - they are our future.

**CHAPTER MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN
VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONIES**



Chapter members and Color Guard await the start of the Veteran's Day Ceremony on the Green in Taunton

The Chapter participated in the Middleboro and Taunton remembrance parade and ceremonies. The activities are scheduled each November 11 at 11:00AM in Taunton. This time corresponds to the World War I Armistice, that ended hostilities on the 11 month, eleventh day, on the eleventh hour. That was supposedly the **WAR TO END ALL WARS**.

Well, it seems that wars did not end. On Veteran's Day We honor all veterans, not only, of WW I and previous wars but the veterans of subsequent wars. World War II, Korea, the Cold War, Vietnam, Grenada, Lebanon, Somalia, Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosovo. We honor those unsung heroes that participated in unknown missions and many other smaller actions that may not be considered wars to some, but to involved were as real as any war ever fought. This day we honor veterans both past and present living or dead. When you see a veteran just say **THANK YOU**, no matter what time of the year.

Veteran's Day certainly means different things to people. We remember our family members that fought and died, those that served and have passed on. Those that are with us still be they relatives, friends or those seen in media. These veterans regardless of their specialties, gave of themselves in time, effort, sweat, blood, tears, prayers, and some gave lives so that Americans can as the song says "BORN FREE, LIVE FREE, STAY FREE" and to protest. Our veterans gave us those freedoms, not Andy Williams, the politicians, lawyers, or courts. It was our everyday common ordinary military man that did his utmost and gave to all these rights we cherish. Thank you to all Vets especially the disabled.

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:

September – Dan O'Connor

October – Bill LaLiberte

Membership Prize

(If not present the prize is forfeited).

September – John Reilly

October – Joseph Madden Jr.

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 :

Dec. 16, 2008 - Regular Meeting

Jan. 20, 2008 - Regular Meeting

RECENTLY DEPARTED COMRADES

William P. Curley

George Pina

57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello to all of my comrades! I

have, once again, returned to the ranks of my active Chapter 57's brothers and sisters. It is an honor to once again be back with you as the Chaplain of this organization.

A 92-year-old, petite, well-poised and proud man, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with his hair fashionably combed and shaved perfectly, even though he is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today. His wife of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled sweetly when told his room was ready. He maneuvered his walker to the elevator; I provided a visual description of his tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on his window. I love it,' he stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy. Mr. Jones, you haven't seen the room; just wait. "That doesn't have anything to do with it," he replied.

Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged. It's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away. Just for this time in my life.

Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories!

Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred. 2. Free your mind from worries. 3. Live simply. 4. Give more. 5. Expect less. Call to notify me about the sickness or death of members God Bless until next edition!

Chaplain Armando Medeiros

E-Mail submitted by Comrade Steve Muncey



WALK ALONG WITH US

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 have resumed. 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!

Don't sit in front of the TV. Do something for others as you have given of yourselves in the past. You can still serve you fellow countrymen just in a different way than before.



**WOODY'S ALL AMERICAN
BARBER SHOP**
(508)669-4114



1160 SOMERSET AVENUE N. DIGHTON, MA. 02764
SENIORS & DAV MEMBERS HAIRCUTS \$10.00



**GENE HARDY
FLOORING**
" For All Your Flooring Needs
508-822-5881 Fax -508-822-2181
Sales Installations Free Estimates

414 Bay Street
Taunton, MA. 02780

James N. Perry, Proprietor

PERRY JEWELERS **FINE JEWELERY**

IN STORE REPAIRS

**400 Broadway
Taunton, MA. 02780
Tel. (508) 822-8876**

Hours:

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

TCAM TV Update**By John Fielding**

A few months ago (quite a few months ago) Our esteemed Editor of this missive, and Producer /Director of the "57 Show, Comrade Paul Waldron, asked me to write an article for this Newsletter. Ads the expression goes Better late than never!

It is hard to believe that the monthly TV Show is over three years old (40 shows to date). It is seen in ten towns in the greater Taunton area. The Taunton Community Access Media Inc air the show in Taunton on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00PM.

Aiding in the production of the show is Chapter 57's own "Miss America", Kim Matthews, the director of TCAMI Channel 15. She is truly our show's mentor.

During the first few months of the show, I kept referring to it as the Post 57 Show, instead Chapter 57's Show. Rocking in my seat was a habit that I've tried hard to break, but even now I sometimes rock until I hear through the ear piece "John stop rocking!!".

The first Co-Host to work with me was Bob Doherty. I truly miss him! He was not only a role model for me, but a role model and a half for all of us.

The Commander's Corner section of each show gives out current and relevant information, to all veterans from WW II to the Present. This is one of the few shows where veteran information of this type and selection is available.

Recently, we finished our annual Forget-Me Not Drive. It is a blue flower not to be mistaken for the "Red Poppy Drive", held by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is interesting to note that some of our collectors are 84 years of age. Yes, members of the "Greatest Generation" The monies that are collected go directly to our disabled veterans, their widows and orphans. We donate clothing, assist widows with heating sponsor parties for the hospitalized Veterans at the VAMC Brockton and help with transporting our disabled Veterans to the hospitals. It would take numerous pages to elaborate on all the activities that Chapter 57 is involved with.

If any reader would like to appear as a guest on the 57 Show to tell your story and record it for history. Please call our Producer Paul Waldron at 508 588-5245. This is your show so let's make it good.

As I close, I wonder if our Editor wishes future articles from me! My favorite saying is "Don't volunteer for anything". But, in Chapter 57 we wear many hats.

EDITOR'S NOTE - John, stop rocking and write!!!!

CHAPTER 57 VAMC PARTY PROGRAM

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 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 service program.

REMINDER FROM THE QUARTERMASTER

The Chapter uniform is not mandatory for members, Our chapter is very active and with a very busy schedule of Patriotic functions, Wakes and Funerals and we must draw on our members for help when they can.

The quartermaster has a revised Uniform code along with all the devices that are needed. I will order items that may be required for new members as well as our older members who want to be up to date.

A limited stock is available at meetings and also order forms for uniform items that are available from National headquarters. The DAV hat is a uniform item that should be purchased by all new members as soon as possible. Looking forward to your feedback.

Norm Willoughby, Quartermaster

2008 FORGET-ME-NOT DRIVE RESULTS

Our annual fund raising drive is over and the results are in. It was felt by most of us, going into the Drive this year that it would be a bad year. We know what the economy is doing to everyone, with gas, food and just about everything increasing in cost. We thought this would be the year that the drive would fall short of beating the amount taken in the previous year.

We are happy to report that we were wrong!! This year's FMN Drive topped last years total. We must recognize the wonderful and giving spirit of the public. Even in times of need themselves, they are there for our Disabled Veterans. So many people, that gave, come to mind. The disabled woman in the wheel chair, the woman that asked what we were collecting for and then wrote a check for \$100 and so many others. They are wonderful people.

Oh yes, we had a top fund raiser. It was none other that the unbeatable Sr. Vice Commander LeRoy Crossman ...AGAIN!

The total this year \$18,088.00. Last year was \$17,861.22

ADVANCED HANDYMAN**We Do It All !****Energy Efficient Windows/Doors****All Types Of Siding, Roofing & Decks****All Your Home & Business Repairs****Satisfaction Guaranteed****Insured****Telephone 508- 962-9198****Rick Correia****Senior Citizens Discounts**

DESRO
Gift Shops

Mill Stores Plaza**638 Quequechan Street****Fall River, MA 02721****(508) 646-9096**

FORGET-ME-NOT DRIVE

I would like to take a moment to thank all that helped in this years forget me not drive. I especially want to thank Norm Willoughby with out his help I think I would have gone off my rocker, thanks Norm. I would like to also say thank you to Paul, Leroy, Bill, Steve, John, Les, Louie, Mort, Fran, Frank Walter, Norm R, and everyone else that gave of there time for this cause.

It is always amazing to me in the two years I've had the honor of running this fund raiser at the number of volunteers that sign up to do their part, and at the number of you that sit back and watch as others do the work. We are not asking you to do everyday or every project that comes along we just ask you to participate. We all have our own problems and excuses but that should not get in the way. We are not asking you to do everything that comes along. Remember you are accountable only to yourself As a member of the DAV we need to show people that we care for our fellow DAV members and even though we have disabilities we can forget them for a few hours to help so we can help those that are not as fortunate as we are. If we don't do this who will? Our Government sure won't.

Comrades you need to wakeup and smell the coffee, open your eyes! Can't you see our numbers are getting smaller all the time we need to stand up and show them that we are here and are not going away. By doing this you let the public and our country leaders know you can't forget the pledge made many years ago to take care of their returning veterans who sacrificed their bodies and lives to protect this great nation we all love. PLEASE take a minute and ask yourselves am I doing all I can to help all my fellow DAV members by sitting home on my duff, then make your decision.

I thank my wife all the time for making me get out and get involved with something , if she didn't I would probably never got involved in this Chapter. I feel that would have been a sad day in my life. If I stay home and hang around the house it's not healthy for me. I have made some good friends in this Chapter and throughout the state; I even went on a kayaking trip up the Charles River in Boston with a group from our Chapter and had a great time. We are planning to do it again. Comrades we need you to get involved I know I am repeating myself, but I feel it is important.

If you need a ride to a meeting call we will get you a ride if possible. We need to let the people see that we are here and that we won't go away and to do this we need every members help not just a few but all of us. Let's show them that we are a proud organization and that we take care of our own and that we are a proud member of the THE DAV!

The opportunities with us are limited only by yourself. Helping others helps you!

Pete Fox, Treasurer

WORLD WAR II MONUMENT SPRUCED UP**The Taunton World War II Monument on courthouse lawn**

Every Veterans Day the WW II Monument area is cluttered with leaves and in general looks rather shabby. This year was different! Our Officer of the Day Jim Zahar, on his own initiative decided that we should honor our WW II veterans at a beautified memorial. He made the proper contacts to let people know of his project. Realizing he need some mulch, he solicited the Ventura Grain Company. This company was glad to donate the material for this project. Jim cleaned up, weeded and then mulched around the perimeter. It looked great, thanks to our own James "Jim" Zahar.

Jim is one of our members that is always there and is constantly thinking what he can do to help others.

His presence is such that he gives quiet confidence that we can get things done as long as we're together.

He is one of the CANS of the "Can do Chapter".

Thank You Jim!



Officer Of The Day James Zahar



O'KEEFE - WADE
Funeral Home Inc.
Kevin Wade Funeral Director

70 Washington Street Serving All Faiths
 Taunton, MA 02780 Pre-Need Planning
 508-823-3371 Cremation Services Available



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

JAMES H. FAGAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
 CHAIRMAN – COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
 3rd Bristol District – Taunton

**"THANK YOU VETERANS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO AND
 HAVE DONE"**

STATE HOUSE ROOM 163
 BOSTON, MA 02133 -1054

TEL. (617) 722-2240
 FAX (617) 722-2347

E-Mail: Rep.jamesFagan@hou.state.ma.us

MEMBERS VISIT SCHOOL AS PART OF VETERANS DAY WEEK ACTIVITIES



Assistant Chaplain Dan O'Connor, Commander Mort Morin and Quartermaster Norm Willoughby outside Our Lady of Lourdes School.

Chapter 57 recently went back to grammar school! Taunton's Our Lady of Lourdes asked Assistant Chaplain Dan O'Connor to do a short program on Veterans Day. Dan in his inimical style passed the word up to Commander Morin; who recruited Quartermaster Norm Willoughby to help out.

Upon arriving at the school and meeting Dr. Lincoln DeMoura, the Principal, we were given our talk parameters. The youngsters, from kindergarten to fifth grade were marched in and seated on the gym floor. Opening ceremonies, similar to our own meetings, were held. Honors to the Colors, a short prayer, and an introduction of the DAV were quickly undertaken.

At that point the Commander was up on deck. He spoke for a few minutes about the history of Armistice Day/Veterans Day and the National Moment of Remembrance. At that point he opened it up to questions from the students. Our two backup speakers gave him some support. When asked how they became disabled both Dan and Norm did not discuss the topic in length, as happens with many veterans. Agent Orange was mentioned in passing.

Chapter 57 puzzle sheets were distributed to the students. These sheets contain the words of the Pledge of Allegiance, a word search puzzle, A fun math puzzle, a short history of the Taunton Liberty and Union Flag and a maze puzzle. The maze is designed on the theme of helping the Commander find the meeting. He needs all the help he can get! Mort had to admit it was fun when it was all over.



JOE THE TAILOR
161 WEST WATER STREET
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS

(508) 823-3421
10% DISCOUNT FOR DAV MEMBERS WITH ID

If you're looking for an active DAV Chapter then consider joining the innovative Chapter 57 Team! We keep inventing, evolving, growing, donating, helping, caring and being!

FACT SHEET FOR VETERANS DAY 2008

Massachusetts Veterans Statistics (September 30, 2008)

Approximately 441,000 veterans currently live in Massachusetts. The women veterans' population in Massachusetts is nearly 28,000.

1 in every 3 single homeless individuals in the Commonwealth is a veteran.

Massachusetts has suffered 108 casualties since the September 11, 2001 related to the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). This number included non-combat related deaths.

541 military service members from Massachusetts have been wounded in action while fighting in the GWOT.

Approximately 29,000 Massachusetts residents have returned home from active duty since September 11, 2001. [This number is based on the discharge papers (DD214) and does not take into account those who may have been activated more than once.]

Massachusetts Air and Army National Guard

8,293 men and women serve in the Massachusetts National Guard.

Approximately 45 percent of Massachusetts Army National Guard members are married and/or have children.

Since September 11, 2001, more than 8,200 members have been federally activated and approximately 6,000 have served overseas.

Currently, 176 members of the Massachusetts National Guard are deployed (as of November 3, 2008).

Approximately 30% of guard members have deployed more than once. The average deployment is 12-15 months.

The Massachusetts National Guard has lost 10 service members in the GWOT.

F-15 fighters from Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod were the first military forces to respond to the terrorist attacks in New York on the morning of September 11, 2001.

Nationwide Statistics*

As of October 25, 2008, there have been 4,797 military deaths in Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

889 members of the National Guard and Reserves have been killed in the GWOT.

Guard and Reserve Components make up approximately 52% of the U.S. population of veterans from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

There are approximately 23.8 million United States veterans nationwide.

1.8 million United States veterans are women. Approximately 20% of the current active duty population is women.

The United States has almost 1.5 million military servicemembers on active duty in its current fighting force.

More than 38,000 American military servicemembers have been killed or wounded in the Global War on Terrorism.

This data was compiled by the Joint Committee on Veterans & Federal Affairs based on various state and federal agency numbers, including DOD and Department of Veterans Affairs. Please contact this Committee with questions on any of the data sources for the above figures at (617) 722-2877.



Robin's
Corner Flower Shop

(508) 824-2821 (800) 643-5029
394 Bay Street Taunton, MA 02780

Fresh cut & silk flower arrangements
Balloon bouquets, Fruit Baskets
Credit Cards by phone Worldwide Delivery

WWW.robinsflowers.com



Legislature Extends the Pay Differential Law until 2011 for National Guard and Reserve in '09

Budget

Both the Senate and House Budgets included language in the Fiscal Year '09 budget that would extend a law that allows the Commonwealth to make up any salary difference for state employees who are members of the National Guard or Reserve and are called up for active duty military service. It also extends the local option for cities and towns to adopt these benefits for municipal employees, including employees of a school district. The pay differential law had been set to expire on September 11, 2008.

New Mobile Vet Center Program in Springfield

Massachusetts has been selected to be the recipient of one of the first fifty new VA mobile counseling centers. The VA states that these vans will "improve access to counseling by bringing services closer to veterans...These vehicles will be used to provide outreach and direct readjustment counseling at active-duty, reserve and National Guard activities, including post-deployment health reassessments for returning combat service members...The 38-foot motor coaches, which have spaces for confidential counseling, will carry Vet Center counselors and outreach workers to events and activities to reach veterans in broad geographic areas. Each vehicle will be assigned to one of VA's existing Vet Centers, enabling the center to improve access to counseling by bringing services closer to veterans."

HIGHLIGHTS OF LEGISLATION PASSED FAVORABLY BY THE VETERANS & FEDERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

H. 4526, Providing for an Investigation and Study by a Special Commission Relative to the Hidden Wounds of War on Massachusetts Service Members (Representative Verga) – Please see page 1 for more information about this legislation addressing the special mental health needs of veterans returning from combat. The bill (originally H. 3728 and renumbered H. 4312) was signed into law on April 10, 2008 and is now **Chapter 1 of the Resolves of 2008.**

THE FORGET-ME-NOT DRIVE
OUR ANNUAL AND ONLY
FUND RAISING
PLEASE VOLUNTEER
CALL -- PETE AT 508-822-4165

Veterans Committee Chairs Call for Help from Commonwealth Scrap Metal Dealers to Deter Veterans Grave Robbers

Just weeks before Veterans Day, thieves stole more than 250 veterans medallions and flag holders from the Riverside Cemetery in Saugus, Massachusetts. This is one of several such incidents that have occurred over the past year in the Commonwealth. As the economy remains uncertain, cemeteries across the nation are taking precautions to protect veterans markers, which can be sold to scrap metal dealers for what has become an increasing profit.

Both Chairmen are asking that Massachusetts scrap metal dealers raise their awareness in light of this recent theft. With the scrap metal dealers and cemeteries working in conjunction, there is hope that the monetary value of the markers will be voided by eliminating the market for them. The Chairs would like to see a program that calls for identification of individuals who takes copper, brass or any type of high value metal to a scrap yard, similar to the regulations that exist for pawn shops. Senate Bill 2371, which was passed favorably in 2007 by the Consumer and Professional Licensure Committee, would require such identification. Recently, there have been numerous reports of stolen metal from constructions sites, including the Longfellow Bridge

Current Massachusetts law makes the willful destruction of a veterans grave marker or metal plaque, veteran's flag holder or flag, punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for no more than five years or by imprisonment for no more than two-and-a-half years in conjunction with a fine of no more than five thousand dollars. However, the removal of flags and memorial tokens without proof of their destruction is only considered a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of no more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for no more than six months.

Legislature Honors Active Duty Servicemembers and Families of the Commonwealth

A Blue Star Service Flag, which military families are authorized to hang in honor of an active duty military family member, now hangs in Memorial Hall of the State House in recognition of the sons and daughters of the Commonwealth who are currently serving. Memorial Hall is a sacred site in the Massachusetts State House, dedicated to honoring veterans, current servicemembers and the proud military history of the Commonwealth. On April 22, 2008, legislators held a solemn ceremony, which was attended by Governor Patrick, to dedicate and install the Blue Star Service Flag and to acknowledge the sacrifices of the men and women from Massachusetts

Paiva's Catering

***Great
Portuguese / American Food***

John Paiva **Contact Us**
203 Washington St. **Tel. 508- 880- 8847**
Taunton, MA. 02780 **Fax. 508- 977- 0615**

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.

FIFTEEN THINGS THAT IT TOOK ME OVER 50 YEARS TO LEARN

E-Mail attributed to Mr. Dave Barry

1. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
2. If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be "Meetings."
3. There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."
4. People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them.
5. You should not confuse your career with your life.
6. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
7. Never lick a steak knife.
8. The most destructive force in the universe is gossip.
9. You will never find anybody who can give you a clear and compelling reason why we observe daylight savings time.
10. You should never say anything to a woman that even remotely suggests that you think she's pregnant unless you can see an actual baby emerging at that moment.
11. There comes a time when you should stop expecting other people to make a big deal about your birthday. That time is age eleven.
12. The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are above average drivers.
13. A person who is nice to you but rude to the waiter is not a nice person. (This is very important. Pay attention. It never fails.)
14. Your friends love you anyway.
15. Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic.

CAN YOU BELIEVE WE ARE AT THE END OF ANOTHER YEAR

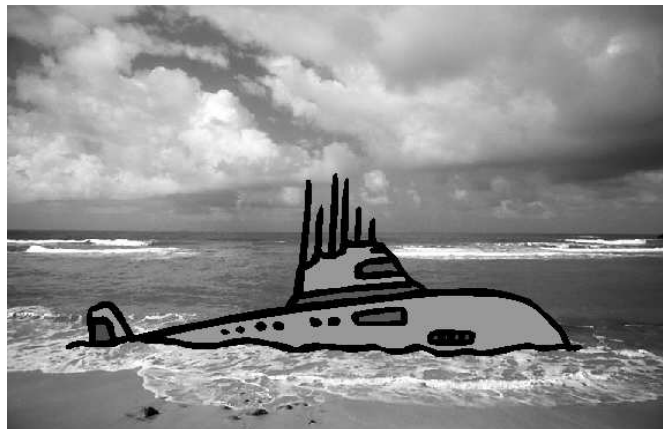
Where in the world did 2008 go? This is a question that as we get older seems to come around more frequently. According to experts time does not go any faster. It is because we are less actively engaged and do no do as much. The more you do seems to make time go slower.

As we come into the holiday season try to cram in as much activity as you can for a sense of prolonged Holidays. Go to everything you can.

The officers and members wish for each of you a wonderful holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas Happy Chanukah DEC 21-29, Kwanzaa Dec 26-Jan 1. Enjoy yourselves and celebrate safely.

NEW CONTEST

FIVE DOLLAR PRIZE TO WINNING CAPTION



THIS CONTEST IS BEING DROPPED AS THERE WERE NO RESPONSES AND THEREFORE NO WINNER.

We wonder if anyone is really out there reading this newsletter! Seriously folks, we have asked for input in the form of your stories, anecdotes, photos, and what have you. We realize that veterans are usually part of the great silent majority, but sometimes feed back can be useful.

We are not the Gazette or the Enterprise. This is your paper. Why not really make it your paper. Send us your articles and other subjects of interest to other veterans.

Of course we will not print Ads for your businesses. That is another area. Those are what partially supports this paper.

We have given you our address, phone numbers, website address, meeting times and dates. Now you need to communicate with us.

Each edition that is sent out to you, free of charge, costs the Chapter approximately \$350.00 for printing and postage. This doesn't take into consideration the time that our volunteers invest in keeping you informed.

This being said, let's hear from you good, bad, indifferent or whatever is on your mind. It is your Chapter! Do you want to see it go the way of other old organizations that died and can no longer be found? I think not! We exist to fight for your Veteran's Rights. Remember, there is strength in numbers. The smaller the organization the fewer listen to its agenda.

But you there are no responses to this article either!

OAKLAND VARIETY STORE BEER, WINE, AND SPIRITS

**246 TREMONT ST.
TAUNTON, MA. TEL. 508-822-1951**

Taunton Federal Credit Union "The home of one stop shopping"

**14 Church Green Tel. (508) 824-6466
Taunton, MA 02780 Fax (508) 824-0050**

REESE'S AUTO SALES



Fine Guaranteed Used Cars

Automotive Service Center

Propane Filling Station

**Edward Reese
(508) 824-0953**

**556 Somerset Avenue
Rt. 138 Dighton, MA.**

THANK YOU VETERANS

Dear Veterans, Servicemembers, Families, and Stakeholders,

We want to thank you for your service and the support you have given to so many others because of your service. We have had an opportunity to see first-hand the work many of you do to support friends and strangers alike. It is because of your work that Massachusetts has been recognized as one of the most generous states in the nation for veterans and their families.

An individual recently shared a story with our Committee about soldiers being deployed and we wanted to share this passage below:

A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' for an amount of up to and including my life. That is Honor, and there are far too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

We look forward to continuing to build upon the strong legislative commitment Massachusetts has made to all who have worn the uniform and the families who have served along side of them.

With appreciation, SEN. THOMAS M. McGEE

REP. ANTHONY J. VERGA

Joint Committee on Veterans & Federal Affairs

HISTORY- 9343 LOSE LIVES IN 53 MINUTES IN WW II

On January 30th, 1945 Gotenhafen time; 7:08pm Moscow time; 2:08pm Milwaukee, WI, USA time), the Soviet sub S-13, commanded by Alexander Marinesko, hit the Gustloff with a spread of three torpedoes. The Gustloff immediately leaned to starboard, righted itself, and then leaned to again. She then launched rescue flares and broadcast an SOS. According to an eye-witness account of Oberbootsmannsmatt Karl Hoffman, the first torpedo struck the Gustloff at the bow, directly below the helm deep below the waterline. The second torpedo exploded under the area of the ship that was the swimming pool, and the third torpedo hit amidship in the forward part of the engine room, ripping the ship hull and shattering the machinery. Soon, the forecastle was nearly underwater, with the stern beginning to rise above the waterline. In under 50 minutes time, the Gustloff was gone, taken beneath the icy black waters of the Baltic, and with her, 9,343 men, women and children. Amazingly, 1,239 people were saved by the heroic and selfless work of a number of German ships in the area. Torpedoboot T-36 rescued 564 people, Torpedoboot Löwe 472 people, Minensuchboot M387 98 people, Minensuchboot M375 43 people, Minensuchboot M341 37 people, steamer Gottingen saved 28 people, Torpedofangboot TF19 saved 7, freighter Gotland 2 people, and Vorpostenboot 1703 saved one person, a 1 year-old child.

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**

**NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #57
TAUNTON, MA**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED