



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

Website:
<http://davtaunton.tripod.com>
E-Mail - Davch57@yahoo.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS 508 -823-0409
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Sergeant At Arms Stephen Horton
Service Officer Frank Ardita
Quartermaster Norman Willoughby
Legislative Officer Bill Blight
Armorer Mort Morin

Sept. / Oct. 2009

Volume 7 Number 1

Page 1

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

We are firmly ensconced in our new home. Like all homeowners we find things that need to be replaced, repaired, rejected and just gotten done.

We've started the year off with some excellent replacement material. Our ranks have been increased by a couple of new members that are really getting in to the swing of things. During the past year we've lost several key members. Their replacements have come to us from several avenues - transfers from other chapters in MA and other states, walk-ins from the Taunton Green and even a few recruited by our members.

In particular, I'd like to point out several of the new kids on the block. Bill Blight, our Legislative Officer, who has just volunteered to help out on the newsletter and website; Jim Gray who has been showing up at the office almost every day to help out and volunteering for the Color Guard; and Don Ryan who raises his hand and shows up at the hospital to help out, as have the other two and a host of others.

Let me slide in a few of the older members who fall in the repair grouping. Jim Zahar has taken the brunt of being custodian, rubbish remover, truck driver, etc. for the chapter. Jim is there to pick-up, move, transport whatever, whenever it has to be done. Tiny Steve Horton is another one who just happens to pop into the office to take on a task, whether it is filling in on staff detail for the scheduled person or moving stuff around. Bill Laliberte has turned out to be a dynamite salesman, getting our initial advertisers in the newsletter and then renewing their ads all the while scrounging donations for the Chapter. And, of course, we've got the regular contributors who really don't need to be named; and aren't in deference to their shy natures.

Those accomplishments are in the past. What we have to do now is work for the future. The number of wounded warriors out there is not getting smaller. The hospital and clinic rosters are not shrinking. The numbers on the streets don't seem to be getting smaller; and winter is coming up. We've got to get the building ready for our first winter.

We've already started work in these areas. We have appropriated monies for the hospitals and patients and probably will appropriate more. We've started buying comfort items for both male and female patients and others in need and will continue on a regular basis.

CHAPTER 57 HAS FIRST OPEN HOUSE IN NEW QUARTERS

Chapter 57 held its first ever “Open House” on 3 October 2009. The occasion was to allow the public to view the interior of the Chapter's first real home in our seventy-five year history. The month of October was chosen because the Chapter was formed in October of 1934. The original members were a group of “Veterans of The World War”, as it reads on the original banner of the Chapter. Of course, it refers to World War I. Little did those founding members realize that there was to be a second World War in a short seven years from their celebration that established this Chapter. This original banner hangs in the meeting room.

The Chapter was named after Corporal William F. Reardon. (More on Corporal Reardon on page 3). From its founding the Chapter has devoted itself to serving Disabled American Veterans, their spouses, widows and dependant children. The mission has not changed in the past seventy-five years and remains as our primary mission today. We are, indeed, proud of this tradition of service by those that have preceded us in this work of veterans helping veterans. The mission was one of the driving forces to purchase our own quarters.

We feel that having our own place allows us to have the resources at hand to better serve the needs of Disabled Veterans and their families. Department Adjutant Dan Stack stated at our Dedication Ceremony in June, that “This Chapter and this building are devoted to SERVING our Country's Disabled Veterans.

The Open House saw new faces and some in need of Veterans Administration claims assistance. Continued Page 3 “Open House”



Members Pete Fox, Ed Nunes, Leroy Crossman and Norm Willoughby take a break and enjoy the camaraderie, in the Meeting room at Chapter 57's first Open House.

CH. 57 MEETINGS

Third Tuesdays of each month

Except July & August

Meeting time - 6:30PM

5-7 Taunton Green

Taunton, MA.

MEETING DATES

Dec.15, 2009 – Regular Meeting

Jan. 19, 2010 – Regular Meeting

Feb. 16, 2010 – Regular Meeting

Mar.16, 2010 – Regular Meeting

Appoint Nominating Com.

To canvass members that

wish to run for office for

2010 -2011

Apr. 20, 2010 – Regular Meeting

Election of Officers for

2010 - 2011

May 18, 2010 – Short Meeting by reservation only.

Installation of Officers

June 15, 2010 – Regular Meeting

RECENTLY DEPARTED

COMRADES

Ernest N. Palladino

September 2009

US Navy WW II

John G. Silvia

August 2009

US Navy WW II

PRIZE DRAWING

UPDATE

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

PRIZE DRAWINGS

\$25.00 Attendance Door Prize:

September – Pete Fox

October - Fran Creney

57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Have you ever heard someone say It will take a miracle or maybe some Other person say "I'm praying for a Miracle"! Well how many of these People realize their miracles? Just What is it they are looking for? Might



it be that they are just looking for someone to take care of their present problem. Have you ever seen a miracle? Yes, some of us would answer yes, here. Most would sayNo!

Well, I am here to tell you that you have all seen miracles. I've gone daft you say! If you don't agree with me at the end of this column, then I may call you "Daft"!

A miracle is defined as an event that appears inexplicable and so is held to be supernatural in origin or an act of God: "Miracles are just spontaneous, they cannot be summoned, but come of themselves". That being the case you may simply look around to find a miracle every day.

What the problem is with most people is that they look at things without actually seeing what they are looking at! Looking and seeing are two different things. When you look at something and really observe the details and contemplate what you are looking at you are seeing. When you look and see just the object in your vision and say that iswhatever, you are not seeing.

Now, that we can "SEE", look around you. The flowers are miracles and you can see their delicate designs, that vary from flower to flower. Trees, mountains, clouds, rain, snow, sun, moon, stars, people, animals, birds, insects, fish, the earth and oceans are all miracles. Life is a miracle.

People are miracles for their discoveries, skills, companionship and love they share. People being born, living and dying are all miracles. Things in nature have a season and so do people.

Sometimes we pray for miracles and get mad when we don't get our wish. Oh, to be sure those wishes do happen, at times. But we simply need to look about to find a miracles in everyday lives.

People helping one another is one of the biggest and best miracles of all. NOW YOU SEE!! There are miracles around us every day given us by God.

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

WALK WITH US

We are still looking for and Honor Guard members. We hope to be able to perform rifle volleys with the M-1 Rifles at ceremonies. Please contact Commander Morin at his number listed below. The Honor Guard and Color Guard will perform as a Unit

Our Forget-Me-Not, annual fund raiser is in need of volunteers to help us in various locations. This is our most important fund raising event of the year. 100% of the funds collected go to support Disabled Veterans in a variety of ways and in particular the donation of clothing, hygiene items and the pizza parties at the VAMC Brockton. We hope to see some new members involved in this heart of the DAV event.

Call Pete at 508- 823-0409

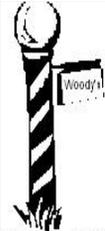
If you would like to assist Chapter 57 at **Homes For Our Troops**, Call Sgt. at Arms, Steve Horton, for more info at **508- 823-0409** .

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

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

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

The Chapter is getting more and more active and we are finding that we just don't have enough people to cover all the events and activities. We really feel bad when we must turn down request for invitations to appear at various functions or are spread so thin that it seems that we are only a few. Sometimes we are covering two or three things, all at the same time! We need you to help. Become active in your Chapter's activities.



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**WHO WAS
CORPORAL WILLIAM F. REARDON?**

The Chapter was named after Corporal William F. Reardon. He was a World War I veteran of the U. S. Army Balloon Corps. He saw action in France during that war. His job entailed being sent aloft in a basket suspended from a tethered balloon and becoming a target of enemy small arms fire and enemy aircraft. He reported on enemy activity in his sector.

Corporal Reardon returned to Taunton after the war and became an involved citizen. In addition to his work he joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars, David F. Adams Post. He became the (Veteran's) Graves Registration Officer for the City of Taunton.

The now Mr. Reardon began helping veterans that were disabled, as a result of their service in the military. He not only collected funds for the care of these veterans, but contributed money of his own.

He did not contribute just a little of his time and money to the disabled cause. Mr. Reardon his work was like a new vocation. He worked tirelessly to help his brother veterans that were less fortunate than he.

Now, as you may realize the U. S. Veterans Administration Did not come into being until 1934. Mr. Reardon was working with the disabled veterans before the Federal Government got involved.

The year 1934 saw the establishment of Chapter 57 of the Disabled American Veterans in the City of Taunton. This was a happy event. On a sad note was the fact that Corporal Reardon died on 9 June 1934, four months before the Chapter 57 Charter was given to the Taunton DAV



Corporal Reardon's gravesite at St Joseph's Cemetery

OPEN HOUSE

(Con't) For claim assistance the Chapter has Service Officers. They are trained and recertified annually. They help claimants through the myriad of paper-work that is necessary for the claims process.

There were many guest and members that dropped in to say hello, during the hours of the Open House. The family of deceased member Robert Doherty was in attendance. The "Front Office" was named for their father. It has become known as Bob's Office. It is in this room where claimants meet with our Service Officers. The space contains personal items of Bob's, including his desk, chair, medals, hat, canes and pictures. The space is not a museum to Bob but a tribute to a person that did so much for his fellow disabled veterans. It is a real working office and contributes to helping "Build Better Lives For America's Disabled Veterans.

The Family on this visit brought a Robert Taylor print. It is titled JG-52. The print pictured below is signed by several WW II German Luftwaffe pilots at least one of whom became a friend of Bob's after the war.. It is of four Messerschmitt BF-109 in flight.



The event was also well attended by local dignitaries. These included; City of Taunton Mayor Charles Crowley, City Councilors Sherry Costa-Hanlon, David Pottier and TMLP Commissioner and School Committeeman Peter Corr. It should be noted that these individuals and the City of Taunton has been very supportive in our efforts to help Disabled Veterans from the entire area of Southeastern Massachusetts.

We look toward having Open Houses periodically in order that more veterans are aware of our activities and programs.

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MEDICATION SCAM

The **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** is warning Veterans not to give credit card numbers over the phone to callers claiming to update VA prescription information. Veteran Service Organizations have brought to VA's attention that callers are misrepresenting the VA to gain personal information over the phone. They say VA recently changed procedures for dispensing prescriptions and ask for the Veteran's credit card number. Veterans with questions about VA services should contact the nearest VA medical center or call, toll-free, 1-877-222-8387.

DAV'S 'STAND UP FOR VETERANS INITIATIVE RECEIVES TOP HONORS

The DAV's Stand Up for Veterans initiative, which recently contributed to a major victory in funding reform for veteran's health care, was honored Tuesday with the prestigious PR News Nonprofit Award for Public Affairs/Issues Management.

At an awards ceremony held in Washington, D.C., this grassroots advocacy program was recognized for its success in generating public awareness and support for wide-ranging veteran's issues. Among those accomplishments was enactment of the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act (P.L. 111-81), historic legislation that President Obama signed into law in October.

Through Stand Up for Veterans, the DAV harnessed and employed powerful communications vehicles to help achieve what had been a top priority of veterans for more than a decade. The DAV also succeeded in creating greater awareness and support for legislation that has been introduced in Congress that will help meet the health care needs of disabled veterans and provide financial support and other services for their family

PRESIDENT SIGNS VA HEALTH CARE BILL

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22—The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) today applauds President Obama for signing the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, calling it “the most significant legislative victory for veterans in a generation.”

“This is a great, historic day for all veterans and their families,” said DAV National Commander Roberto “Bobby” Barrera, who was at the signing ceremony in the White House. “Veterans, families, survivors and everyone else who cares about the plight of veterans can rejoice knowing that for the first time ever, the Department of Veterans Affairs’ health care system can be assured it will be funded on time and adequately every year.”

“We have worked for this for more than two decades as veterans suffered. Approval of advance appropriations is the most significant legislative victory for veterans in a generation,” he said. “This legislation will help ensure timely access to medical care for the men and women who have served, are serving and will serve in defense of our nation.”

“This long overdue legislation will make a difference for every disabled veteran and every future disabled veteran,” said Commander Barrera. “This victory flows from the effective collaboration by veterans organizations in the Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, The Military Coalition and a dedicated group of former VA officials who joined our cause. Most important, this is happening because veterans across the country, including so many DAV members and supporters, stepped up and called on Congress to put an end to chronic funding lapses occurring for decades. Together, we stood up for veterans, and veterans and their families are going to benefit.”

“This historic legislation will ensure an uninterrupted, predictable flow of funds for veterans health care programs even if Congress is unable to complete work on the rest of the federal budget by the start of a fiscal year,” said DAV National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. “With funding assured, VA hospital and clinic directors will no longer have to delay the hiring of new doctors or nurses, or the purchase of new medical equipment, due to Congress’ failure to approve a budget on time; something that has occurred in 20 of the past 23 years, including this year. With advance appropriations in place, VA officials will be able to plan ahead how best to provide veterans with the medical care they have earned: when and where they need it.”

The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act authorizes Congress to approve veterans medical care funding one year in advance to better meet the anticipated demand for veterans health care services. The advanced funding will give the Department of Veterans Affairs up to a full year to plan for the most effective and efficient way of delivering medical care. Additionally, this now requires the Government Accountability Office to audit the budget development process to ensure that sufficient funds are included.

The 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit organization founded in 1920 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1932, represents this nation’s disabled veterans. It is dedicated to a single purpose: building better lives for our nation’s disabled veterans and their families. More information is available at www.dav.org.



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CHAPTER SUMMER COOKOUT ANOTHER SUCCESS

Another year went by and we all gathered at the Dighton Pavilion for another Cookout enjoying it with our Families, Friends and our Comrades.

Leroy Crossman outdid himself for another year with his committee of John Fielding, Bill Laliberte and Ed Nunes. There were Gift Baskets for everyone in attendance by a raffle ticket given upon entry to the Pavilion, and there were raffle tickets to be purchased to benefit the Building Fund.

Food was prepared and served by the generous people who not only did the all the work but made monetary donations. We cannot thank them enough. They were, Stella Crossman, Linda Crossman, Lori Crossman, Peter Woodward, Lisa Haskell, Armando Rodriques, Millie & Jim Scott, Nadine & Greg Ferria, Russell & Diane Haskell and Michael Crossman.

The food was prepared and served with Military precision and was delicious. The Scholarships for the essay "What a Military Veteran Means to Me" were awarded to Valerie Nunes-Danca and Ashley Willoughby who were present.

Our thanks, once again, to Senior Vice Commander Leroy Crossman for another Job Well Done. Leroy's continued service to the Disabled American Veterans and particularly to Chapter 57 is beyond exemplary. He is a role model for others to follow. A quiet (Most of the time) individual he manages to accomplish much without fanfare or need for recognition. But, we know what a devoted, caring and energetic person that Leroy is!



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CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHAPTER 57'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUILDING FUND

This fund is to be used to cover administrative and building needs. It is totally separate from the Forget-Me-Not funds. We will put this column in each newsletter to recognize those that have contributed to this important fund. This drive is on going and our members are responding. We are grateful for this and for the groups and families that have responded. Please consider donating to this fund.

CONTRIBUTORS

\$1- \$99

Mr. Armando Medeiros

\$100 - \$200

Mr. John Spousta

**Mr. Frederick H. Bohning in memory of his wife
Anna Bohning**

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

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

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

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

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**THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
EXPANDS SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES**

On July 3, 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs launched a pilot on-line Chat Service, in partnership with Lifeline. The Veterans Chat Service is located at the VA National Suicide Prevention Hotline.

Veterans Chat enables Veterans, their families and friends to go online where they can anonymously chat with a trained VA counselor. If the chats are determined to be a crisis, the counselor can take immediate steps to transfer the chatter to the VA Suicide Prevention Hotline, where further counseling and referral services are provided and crisis intervention steps can be taken.

The online feature is intended to reach out to all Veterans who may or may not be enrolled in the VA health care system and provide them with online access to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline and provides Veterans with an anonymous way to access VA's suicide prevention services.

Veterans (and family members or friends) can access Veterans Chat through the Lifeline suicide prevention website. Watch for these key suicide warning signs, and provide the Lifeline number to anyone exhibiting them.

- Talking about wanting to hurt or kill oneself
- Trying to get pills, guns, or other ways to harm oneself
- Talking or writing about death, dying or suicide
- Hopelessness
- Rage, uncontrolled anger, seeking revenge
- Acting in a reckless or risky way
- Feeling trapped, like there is no way out
- Saying or feeling there's no reason for living.

The information below can be cut out and carried in the wallet if you are having problems or exhibiting any symptoms or thinking of hurting yourself. Remember people care!

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CHAPTER 57 VAMC PARTY PROGRAM

The schedule for this program, which is held in Building #2 at the Brockton VA Hospital on Belmont Street in Brockton, MA (Just off Route 24), is as follows;

11/24/09, 1/16/10, 2/23/10
3/23/10, 4/27/10, 5/25/10 & 6/22/10

We meet at 6:00 – 6:15pm at the entrance to Building #2, the night of the program. Please save this article as a reminder of the dates of this important service program. Please join us in helping brighten the day of a hospitalized veteran.

UPCOMING CHAPTER 57 EVENTS

- December 6, 2009** **Christmas Parade - Taunton MA.**
For more information call
508-823-0409
- December 6, 2009** **DAV DAY at the VAMC Brockton**
Assemble at 10:00am at the
Volunteer Office.
- December 13, 2009** **Chapter 57 Christmas Party**
Elk's Lodge
119 High Street
Taunton, MA.
Reservations are required for this event. Call 508-823-0409 Leave a message and phone number if you get the answering machine and someone will get back to you.

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HARD OF HEARING

Having lost most of his hearing a number of years ago, this elderly man goes to the doctor to be fitted with hearing aids which promise to allow him to hear 100%. A month later, he returns to the doctor for a check up on his progress. The doctor tells him that his hearing is perfect and asks if his family is pleased. The man says, "Oh, I haven't told them about the hearing aids yet. I just sit around and listen to them talk. I've changed my will three times!"

WHAT?

Three old buddies are out for a walk. Old guy #1 says, "Windy, isn't it?" Old guy #2 says, "No, it's Thursday!" Old guy #3 says, "So am I. Let's go get milk shake."

DRIVING TEST

A professional juggler, driving to his next performance, is stopped by the police. "What are you doing with these matches and lighter fluid in your car?" asks the police officer. "I'm a juggler and I juggle flaming torches in my act." "Oh yeah? Let's see you do it," says the officer. So the juggler gets out and starts juggling the blazing torches masterfully.

A couple driving by slows down to watch. "Wow," says the driver to his wife. "I'm glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they're giving now!"

HOW OLD?

A little boy asked his grandmother how old she was. "39 and holding," she replied. "Well, then, how old would you be if you let go?"



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FORGET-ME-NOT DRIVE

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.

The economy is one part of the things that happened this year! We had problems with city and town permission letters being lost. The permissions were obtained late in some cases. Some towns only allow a limited number of groups to solicit on the same dates. Some of the stores have changed their policies as to how you conduct the drive. We were unable to get the dates that we would normally have at some stores.

Even with all these problems, enough funds were raised to allow us to continue all of our regular programs at the VA Hospital in Brockton and to plan some new initiatives. We will have to scale back some of our ideas for new projects and postpone others. Hopefully, the economy will improve and we will not have permission and scheduling problems next year. We will be using a Gaant Chart to control the FMN Drive for next year.

Once again this year Sr. Vice Commander Leroy Crossman was our top fund raiser. Our thanks to all those that contributed to this fund. These funds are spent entirely on programs for Disabled Veterans.

OCEAN STATE JOB LOT

Ocean State Job Lot is indeed a wonderful supporter of Chapter 57 and Disabled Veterans. When the heard through our member William LaLiberte that we would need to put off buying air conditioners for the new Chapter Headquarters, they went into action. Bill was contacted by Ocean State Job Lot corporate headquarters. They informed him that they were donating two, 12,000 BTU Air Conditioners to the Chapter.

Our thanks to the wonderful owners of this company.

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**VA WORKING ON PLAN TO END
HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS**

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Erik K. Shinseki Details Plan to End Homelessness for Veterans

This week, at the "VA National Summit Ending Homelessness among Veterans" Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki unveiled the department's comprehensive plan to end homelessness among Veterans by marshalling the resources of government, business and the private sector.

Shinseki's plan includes preventive measures like discharge planning for incarcerated Veterans re-entering society, supportive services for low-income Veterans and their families and a national referral center to link Veterans to local service providers. Additionally, the plan calls for expanded efforts for education, jobs, health care and housing.

INDIGENT VETERANS ASSISTANCE

Under Chapter 115 of Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L. ch. 115), the Commonwealth provides a uniform program of financial and medical assistance for indigent veterans and their dependents. Qualifying veterans and their dependents receive necessary financial assistance for food, shelter, clothing, housing supplies, and medical care in accordance with a formula which takes into account the number of dependants and income from all sources.

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SMALL CHAPTER 57 FLIES IN IRAQ



Picture above is Marine 1st Lt. Ben Crovella, with some of his men and an Iraqi Interpreter, somewhere in the Iraq. They are holding a small DAV flag with MA CH 57 on it. The flag was part of a care package sent to them by one of our members.

Anyone interested in donating to or helping to send packages To our troops please contact the Headquarters at 508-823-0409.

These packages must be privately funded and mailed. The flat rate for mailing is \$11.95 plus whatever the cost of goods. This is a private initiative by some of our members.

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