

The Listening Post

"NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER"



The Brott Family And Friends Have Done It Again



After David's death year before last from cancer, best friend Al Hosmer and his daughter Stacey King organized a memorial motorcycle run. With the help of David's family they did the run out of David's son, David Tyler's tattoo shop in Bowling Green. They later decided to do another run only this time it would be to raise funds for The Vietnam Veterans Of America and decided to donate to chapter 35.

Now let us jump ahead one year to 2016.

With storms on the horizon, the riders faced rain most of the day to help with The David Brott Memorial Bike Run. The proceeds from this run would go to Chapter 35 Vietnam Veterans Of America. This is their third such run, two have been for Chapter 35, for this we are very thankful, these monies will help with different projects that are in the works as well as future projects. Not only did they do the Motorcycle run, daughter Prudence Brott owner of Sunset Bistro in B.G. donated a large portion of her proceeds from the restaurant to the fundraiser. Everyone that can, please come to our November meeting to join us in thanking the family and friends as they make another generous donation to our chapter,

Chapter Honor Guard Help Needed

The chapter is still looking for members to help with Honor Guard. Coordinator Gene Shurtz says an offer still stands from an anonymous donor who will pay the first year's dues for up to 10 new members that will commit to becoming part of the Guard, for the rest of this year.

Associate membership are also included in this offer, if the prospect is honorably discharged. Anyone who knows of someone interested should contact Honor Guard Coordinator Gene Shurtz



Happy Thanksgiving

Membership Drive Chapter 35

Vietnam (In-country) veterans and Vietnam-era veterans are one and the same for membership, the era has been eliminated, to qualify, service must have been between February 28, 1961 through May 7, 1975. Vietnam veterans, who served in the U.S. military (for other than training purposes), must document service between August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975. Associate Membership is to anyone that is not a Veteran, or a Veteran that did not serve during the above dates. Remember, the \$9 promotional dues, for the first year, are good until 12/31/2016, and the \$100 VVA life membership is now permanent! These applications must be processed by the Chapter.

2016-2017 Officers

Dick Nolte / President
Bob Stewart / V. President
George Hart / 2nd V. President
Clyde Appleby / Secretary
Gene Shurtz / Treasurer

Board Members

Tom Loomis / till 2017
John Slaughterbeck / till 2018
Al Meadows / till 2019
Ron Sherman / till 2019
AVVA/Jan Baker

Office 419.242.4293

Chaplin 419.242.4293

Electronic Newsletter

Not only would you help Chapter 35 cut expenses and save money, you would get more pages with stories of Vietnam and more if you converted to paperless newsletter in your e-mail. If you would like a paper copy to save then you could just print it. You can save to your computer for future reading, forward to prospective members, your family members and friends. This newsletter has 6 pages, some have had up to 12 with chapter news and stories. If you would like to help us out and receive your newsletter electronically, please contact Al Meadows by e-mail at alm108wal@aol.com You will then be added to e-mail list.

November Meeting

Sunday November 13, 2016 at 7 p.m.
LAKE TOWNSHIP BUILDING
Corner, St. Rt. 795 and Cummings Rd.
Lake Township, Wood County
"Coffee and fellowship at 6:30 p.m."

**VVA CHAPTER #35, TOLEDO
-SURVIVOR'S NOTIFICATION FORM-**

Member's Name _____

Date of Death _____

Survivor's/Contact's Name _____

Primary Phone # __ (XXX-XXX-XXXX) _____

Preferred time to call _____

Alternate Phone # __ (XXX-XXX-XXX) _____

Preferred time to call _____

Member's Wishes: (place 'x' on ALL that apply:)

- Military Honors**
 Live Bugler (if available)
 No Military Honors
 Funeral Pre-planning Assistance
 Death Benefits Assistance (VA)



Call to Report death of member at: 419/242-4293 (Please call as soon as practical)

NOTE: Member, please fill in all possible info & wishes, review with a designated survivor, and place this form with your important documents.

From The Editor's Desk

After considerable mind bending consideration, I have decided to relinquish my position as chapter 35's newsletter editor for personal reasons effective January, 2017.

I feel it is necessary for several reasons. During my tenure I have enjoyed helping the chapter grow and informing the members with informative articles. However, I also assist my wife with her home-based business. The time that assistance requires has continually reduced that necessary for me to research, coordinate, do the layout for each upcoming month's articles, proof-reading, corrections and printing envelopes.

These activities need to be done within the time-frame of a deadline to print and distribute to meet the monthly meeting notice requirement.

I hope that someone in the chapter will be willing to "job shadow" me prior to the end of the year and assume this important position. Several of the officers and others are

available to assist the new editor with the construction and

monthly publication tasks. (Publisher 2003 a plus) However the chapter would provide the

necessary publisher software and other related expenses.

Others in the chapter have occasionally provided me with suggested article material.

President Nolte has promised to provide relevant update reports, also. Chaplain Shurtz has stated

his desire to re-instate a "Chaplain's and Sick Call Report"

as a means of strengthening chapter

communication.

Please contact me @419-265-8943 or any officer at 419-242-4293 as soon as possible if you would like to be considered for the Editor's position.

Thanks to everyone for all the compliments on the newsletter. I hope the new editor will continue to find ways to save money with the printing and mailing costs while keeping the newsletter interesting and informative, with on time delivery. Thanks again.

Al Meadows

December Meeting

Sunday December 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

LAKE TOWNSHIP BUILDING

St. Rt. 795 & Cummings Rd.

Lake Township, Wood County

Fellowship at 6:30pm

Homeless Veteran Stranded Again In Santa Fe

Shawn Michael Barnes' pit bulls were flying through the air, jumping into his arms and bouncing off his body as he attempted to play catch with them late last week in a vacant field off the south end of Cerrillos Road.

The homeless Army combat vet — whose “stranded-in-Santa Fe” plight in July brought him national attention that helped raise about \$3,000 through a GoFundMe account — is back in the city after a thwarted trip to Colorado.

His vehicle is once again broken down, undone by transmission problems. Last time, in a dry July with record-breaking heat, he found himself stranded near the landfill several miles from town. Now he's within walking distance of a grocery store and a water supply for the dogs.

“I feel like I'm supposed to be out here,” he said one recent morning while playing with his seven dogs. “It's where I keep getting stuck.”

Barnes, 31, took to the road in February from his home state of New Jersey to find inspiration, land and support to build The Barracks, a nonprofit motel for veterans and their dogs. It would be a place where veterans can get a hot meal, a shower and a warm bed for them and their canines.

According to the National Coalition For Homeless Vets, about 48,000 military veterans are living on the streets on any given nights. Some have dogs. Barnes has seven pit bulls: Prince, Sateen (pronounced “Satin”), Xena, Apocalypse, Paris, Syria and Sienna. They are oblivious to their plight, happy to be sleeping in the back of Barnes' SUV and running around the vacant field. Low-flying ravens and



fast-moving lizards continually distract them.

When he was stuck in Santa Fe last month, Barnes got some help from local people, including Brian Redondo, an ex-Marine mechanic, and managed to get back on the road for a trip to the mountains near Westcliffe, Colo. When he hit Trinidad just across New Mexico's northern border, however, his car broke down again. He stayed in a chain store parking lot for nearly a week until Redondo drove up to help him.

His first night in Trinidad, flashlights beamed in through his car window, waking him and alerting the dogs. The next thing Barnes knew, he said, a couple of police officers were putting their hands on their weapons and asking him if he was hoarding fight dogs. “I said, ‘Whoa, whoa, calm down, you surprised us. They are good dogs. They are service dogs,’” Barnes recalled. “Once I explained it to them, they backed off. They left me alone. It could have been a lot worse.”

He returned to the safety of Santa Fe, where he broke down once again a few days ago.

Barnes has always been wary of general contact with other human beings — he said he knows combat vets and pit bulls are often viewed as dangerous — but his experiences in Northern New Mexico have warmed him up to the idea of companionship and of asking for help.

Barbara Odell of Santa Fe, one of the local people who have reached out to help him, spent some time tracking Barnes down last week to bring him

food and gas. One day, she loaded him and his dogs into her car for a shopping trip to Wal-Mart. She waited outside with the dogs while he ran in to buy supplies.

When he returned, she noticed he had bought transmission fluid, dog treats and hot dogs for the pit bulls.

“Did you buy yourself any food?” she asked him. “No,” he said. She said another once-homeless veteran who has gone through a similar situation is working to help Barnes — who has post-traumatic stress disorder — become eligible for more veterans' benefits so he can “find his footing and get out of that car and get a house and take care of those dogs.

“I feel it's our responsibility as human beings to give back,” Odell said. “I feel it is my responsibility to do that.” Barnes said he knows his refusal to abandon his dogs is preventing him from finding housing — permanent or temporary — and damning him to a life on the road. But while a month ago he saw his pets as both a blessing and a curse, he's since changed his mind.

“I'm glad I keep them together, glad I have them with me because they push this purpose of mine farther,” he said. “The more I struggle and tell people I'm not splitting them up ... the more they can see I'm serious about The Barracks. ... With seven dogs, maybe I'm making a statement. They're my trademark. They are a blessing.” Odell, among others, is urging Barnes to get his dogs neutered and spayed. He's beginning to consider it. The GoFundMe account created by one of his sisters should help.

In the meantime, Barnes has met a number of homeless people — some veterans, some civilians — near his improvised campsite. He'd never envisioned himself in their similar situation, but his experience has opened his eyes.

“They're just people who want to help other people make it another day,” he said. “That means a lot to me.”

By Robert Nott

The Santa Fe New Mexican (Tribune News Service)



Justice Department's New \$4 Million Pledge To Keep Veterans Out Of Jail

Marine Sgt. Tim Wynn was home from Iraq less than three days when he wound up in handcuffs, arrested for aggravated assault at a bar in his native Philadelphia.

After being among the first troops to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom, his hometown streets seemed unfamiliar. The veteran struggled to reconnect, couldn't hold a job and depended on drugs and alcohol to get through his endless days.

He spent a year in a county jail for infractions related to his substance abuse.

But after his seventh arrest in 2013, he landed in the courtroom of Judge Patrick Dugan, an Army reservist who leads the city's Veterans Treatment Court

— a place where former troops who run afoul of the law can get medical treatment for addiction as well as support from the Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans service organizations and veteran mentors.

And that's where Wynn's life turned around.

"[In that court], you look to your left, you look to your right and you see veterans going through what you are going through. And all of a sudden, you are focused on a mission again, the mission of recovery," Wynn said. The Philadelphia courtroom is one of 463 nationwide that offer mandatory rehabilitation and medical treatment for veterans arrested for certain felonies or misdemeanors.

On Tuesday, the Justice Department pledged to support more outlets in this growing court system, awarding more than \$4 million to 13 state and local jurisdictions to develop their own programs.

Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General Bill Baer said that with one in six Iraq or Afghanistan veterans abusing alcohol or drugs — a situation that can contribute to arrest — the nation owes it to military veterans to help them "get back on their feet, stay sober and productively integrate."



"Our military veterans often risk life and limb for their country ... We owe our very best to help those who struggle with substance abuse," said Baer during a forum hosted by the department to mark Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week. Veterans treatment courts require veterans to go through intense, court-supervised mental health and medical treatment and provide a "one-stop shop" for veterans to access services and benefits.

According to data provided by Justice For Vets, an advocacy group that provides funding and training for court staff, two-thirds of veterans who go through the system successfully complete their regimens, and 88 percent of courts see a reduction in arrests.

The system has proven so successful that the VA has mandated that every VA medical center have a veterans justice outreach specialist who provides legal assistance to veterans and supports veterans treatment courts in their region.

Speaking at the event Tuesday, VA Secretary Robert McDonald said veterans often end up in the judicial system after suffering post-traumatic stress, brain injury or mental illness that can lead to substance abuse, homelessness and criminal activity.

"And all too often, that substance abuse begins with opioids prescribed by DoD or VA doctors for service-related conditions," McDonald said.

"All of these things are preventable." To combat opioid addiction among veterans (veterans are 10 times more likely to abuse opioids than civilians, according to McDonald), VA has launched an aggressive campaign to educate physicians on prescribing practices and support non-

pharmaceutical pain management programs.

Since 2012, VA has reduced the number of patients prescribed opioids by 25 percent, the number of patients on long-term opioid therapy by 30 percent, and the number taking high-dose opioids by 36 percent.

"We owe it to our nation's veterans to help them end their dependence on opioids and break down that spiral that ends all too often in homelessness, prison or suicide," McDonald said. While veterans court advocates had sought \$15 million for programs nationwide in 2016, they said Tuesday that any amount helps safeguard against veterans winding up in the prison system.

According to Judge Robert Russell, who started the first veterans treatment court in Buffalo, N.Y., recidivism rates are low.

"We've had 200 some-odd veterans who completed our program and probably only four or five who experienced recidivism. It's been a blessing to work with veterans," Russell said.

The Justice Department's grants this year will go to court systems in Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Florida, Montana, Virginia, Missouri, California, Texas, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

Wynn says he owes his life to the second chance he received in a veterans court and has pledged his life to help others get back on their feet. The married college student and father of two now serves as the mentor coordinator for the Philadelphia Veterans Treatment Court.

"There's definitely a new mission in my life. My mission was to suppress different feelings and emotions for a long time. Now my mission is to recover and help other veterans recover," Wynn said.

Patricia Kime covers military and veterans health care and medicine for Military Times. She can be reached at pkime@militarytimes.com.

10 Things To Know About Safety In the Fall and Winter

1. **National Preparedness Month.** September is [National Preparedness Month](#) – a time to prepare your family for handling emergency situations. This year’s theme is “Don’t Wait, Communicate,” and the Red Cross encourages all families to talk about and develop a [disaster preparedness plan](#). An important part of any preparedness plan is having a [family communications plan](#) in place. Visit [Ready.gov](#) for information on emergency preparedness planning, such as how to plan for [individuals with disabilities](#) and other people who have accessibility needs. Also make sure your home has a fully stocked [emergency kit](#). To stay informed, sign up for [Wireless Emergency Alerts](#) or download free [Red Cross emergency mobile apps](#) to have preparedness tools on-the-go. At the end of National Preparedness Month, take part in a national day of action, known as [America’s PrepareAthon!](#), by getting involved in emergency preparedness events in your local community and helping to [spread the word](#). Find out about events near you by connecting with your [local Red Cross chapter](#).
2. **Prepare for Fall Weather.** After the extreme heat of summer, fall can feel like a welcome relief. But the autumn months can come with their own [weather-related issues](#). Hurricane season runs through the end of November and can bring with it damaging winds, heavy rainfall and floods. Learn what to do to [prepare for a hurricane](#) and what [emergency supplies](#) you may need. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers hurricane preparedness [public service announcements](#) and [videos in American Sign Language](#). [Flooding](#) is another weather hazard during fall. Visit [FloodSmart.gov](#) to learn about the [causes of floods](#), if the area where you live may be [at risk](#) and how the [National Flood Insurance Program](#) can help you protect your home and property. Find [flood recovery tips](#) from the American Red Cross. Falling leaves can clog gutters and be a fire hazard, but burning them can release toxic chemicals, so consider raking and bagging them instead. When the days get colder, call your heating and

cooling company to service your furnace before turning on the heat.

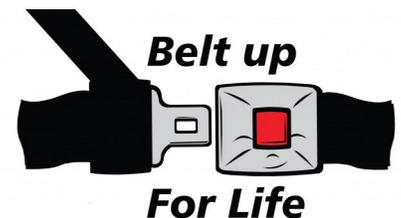
3. **Don’t Fall This Fall!** Did you know



4. that [one out of three](#) adults age 65 and older fall each year? Falls are the [number one cause](#) of fractures, hospital admissions for trauma, loss of independence and injury or deaths for seniors. But you can take action! Learn how to prevent falls [outdoors](#) and at [home](#) or take a [falls risk self-assessment](#). Visit the website of the [Fall Prevention Center of Excellence](#) to find information to keep you and your loved ones safe from falls. The site has resources for [older adults and caregivers](#), including the three main strategies of fall prevention: [balance training](#) and physical activity, medical management and environmental or [home modifications](#). Get [answers](#) to frequently asked questions about falls and aging adults from the National Institutes of Health’s [SeniorHealth.gov](#). Learn about fall prevention [programs](#) and strategies from the [National Falls Prevention Resource Center](#). For more information, read “[6 Steps for Preventing Falls](#)” for more information.
5. **Securing Your Medicine Cabinet.** If taking medication prescribed by your doctor is part of your daily health routine, it’s important to take proper safety precautions. Many medications can be damaged by heat, air, light, and moisture, so follow [medication storage guidelines](#) to avoid affecting how well the medicine works. The best place to store medicine is somewhere cool and dry. [Keep young children safe](#) by choosing a storage place that is out of their reach. [Keep track](#) of all the medications you take by

always having an updated list with information including what you take, how often you take it, what the dose is, and why you take it. Educate yourself about your medications by knowing what [questions to ask your doctor](#). If you’re planning to travel, bring your medication list with you, and keep these [travel safety tips for taking medicines](#) in mind. Don’t forget to check all of your medications for expiration dates. If you need to throw out old medications, follow these [tips to throw away your old medicines safely](#).

6. **School + Safety = Smart.** As the school year begins, parents and teachers should take some time to brush up on school safety tips and talk with kids about smart safety habits to remember throughout the school day. Getting to and from school safely is important. Make sure your children know about [school bus safety](#) and how to [walk to school safely](#). If you pack healthy lunches for your child, be mindful of the food you prepare and make sure anything perishable is kept cold. Follow these tips for [keeping “bag” lunches safe](#). Recess is an enjoyable time of the school day, but remind your children that getting hurt on the playground isn’t fun and share these [playground safety](#) lessons with them. Teach kids who stay [home alone after school](#) about what to do to stay safe in case of an emergency. Ensure that any play dates your child may have are safe by asking the friend’s parent these 12 important [play date safety questions](#).



7. **Buckle Up!** Traveling in a car with a disability can provide tremendous freedom, but there are many safety elements to keep in mind. Many vehicles can be [adapted and modified](#) with lifts and harnesses to accommodate wheelchairs and riders with varying

Continued; 10 Things To Know About Safety In the Fall and Winter

physical abilities. These modifications can be costly, but lifesaving and [some funding may be available](#) to assist people with those costs. When driving or riding in a motor vehicle, we all know seat belts are a must. But a traditional seat belt doesn't always work for all passengers. There are after-market [harnesses and other modifications](#) that can help adapt an automobile's safety features to suit every rider's needs. For children with special needs, there are many [specialized car seats available](#).



8. **Keeping Your Home Secure.** It's important for all homeowners to take precautions to make sure that all residents are safe, including those with disabilities. One of the main dangers in a home is a [fire](#). Homes should have [working smoke detectors](#) that will alert residents to the possibility of a fire. There are specialized smoke detectors with photoelectric strobes for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. In addition to proper smoke detectors, family members should all be involved in developing an [escape plan](#) in the event of the fire. All members of a household should contribute to that plan taking into account their abilities and mobility in that plan. A less common, but just as dangerous, hazard is carbon monoxide. All homes should be equipped with a [working carbon monoxide detector](#) that can alert residents to a leak of this colorless, odorless, and deadly gas. [Additional strategies for keeping your home safe](#) can be taken to avoid injuries in case of an emergency.

9. **Preventing Personal Crime.** In 2013, the [U.S. Department of Justice](#) found that people with disabilities were twice as likely to be victims of

violent crimes. The best way to [protect yourself](#) is to avoid dangerous situations and know how to defend yourself if you're in them. Review these [safety tips](#) to prevent becoming the victim of a violent crime, such as theft or assault. Whether you're [at home or out and about](#), always know your surroundings and let someone else know where you are. Parents, caregivers or other adults that interact with children with disabilities should also be alert for [signs of abuse](#). Not all crimes are physical – financial scams are crimes, too. All individuals, especially older adults, should know ways to [protect themselves from financial scams](#). If you have become the victim of a crime and need assistance, you can find [crime victim assistance](#) in many places across the country. You may also wish to call one of these [national hotlines](#) for help. In addition, the [State Crime Victims Compensation programs](#) reimburse victims for crime-related expenses, like medical costs, counseling, lost wages and more.



10. **Protecting Yourself Online.** You would probably never leave your door unlocked or let a stranger into your home, but you may forget about the importance of protecting yourself online. Learn to avoid scammers, hackers and identity thieves by reading these [online security tips](#) from the Federal Trade Commission. Find more information about [protecting your online personal information](#) and learn about [common fraud scams](#), including those targeting [seniors](#) and ones related to [work-at-home jobs](#). [Charity Navigator](#) offers tips on how to avoid [online charity scams](#). Some scammers may email or call you and claim to be representing a government agency, such as the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) or the [U.S. Social Security Administration](#). They may claim you have

been awarded a [housing grant](#) or disability payment, but need to pay an upfront fee so they can process it. Never wire money or provide credit card information to these people. Learn how to report fraud at [Stop-Fraud.gov](#). You can report identity theft at [IdentityTheft.gov](#).



11. **Recovering Financially from Disaster.** Once you are safe from a disaster, your next question might be, [how can I recover financially?](#) In some situations, the [Red Cross provides financial relief](#) for those who don't have anywhere else to turn. The federal government provides disaster relief assistance. Visit [DisasterAssistance.gov to find aid, apply online](#) and [check the status of your application](#). Sometimes employment can be interrupted by disasters. The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) [Disaster Unemployment Assistance](#) provides unemployment benefits if you lose your job as a direct result of a presidentially-declared disaster. Find other resources for benefits, like the [federal-state unemployment insurance program](#), at [DOL's recovery assistance website](#). The U.S. Department of the Treasury also offers taxpayers assistance to recover financially from the impact of a disaster through the [Casualties, Disasters, and Theft](#) program and the [Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Program](#). Homeowners in a declared disaster area can receive financial help from the U.S. Small Business Administration's [Home and Property Disaster Loans](#), or may qualify for an [insured mortgage](#).