

The Listening Post



Chapter President Sit Report March 2015

Chaplain King and I concur...Whoever is praying for snow, please STOP!! However, we probably can rest in, remember, and now value our various military training programs, that were conducted in various types of climates, seasons, and their associated weather. Do you recall the mantra that the DI's "beat" into our newly forged consciousness? Was it not: "The war does not stop because we don't like the weather."? Or: "Weather is merely an obstacle to be overcome. Whether you like it or not... Deal with it, troop!"

My fellow brothers and sisters, you should draw back your shoulders in a stance of express pride. A nice-sized group of about 12 of your fellow Chapter members (or as your beloved Treasurer, recently turned Honor Guard recruit/trainee likes to refer to them as: ("The Dirty Dozen") dealt with this month's horrendous weather. They have attended one or more of our historic first two organizational/training meetings! Prodding devotion and determination have allowed us to make quantum leaps forward towards fulfilling the goal of establishing an in the flesh long overdue, functioning unit. It's purpose will be to serve our Chapter's primary target goal of answering the expressed needs of our veteran community. Probably within "the ranks" of the "DD", who have sipped at the "fire hydrants of knowledge", several might question my desire, efforts, and motives to establish such a unit. They might even feel my previous statements are in the form of passionate expressions of selfaggrandizement. Many of you know it has been my dream/vision over the past 20-plus years to help create just such a unit. However, until NOW I was unable to



find the right people, with the right stuff! **To your spirit of humble volunteerism, I say "many thanks", and "I salute YOU for it!"** I am proud of YOU, and glad to be only a facilitator/joint participant in lockstep with YOUR progress. **WE share MUTUALLY... in OUR SUCCESSES!**

The best news is... there's still room for YOU! Please consider VERY SOLEMNLY what you might be able to bring to the table to advance our serviceability goals...then come forward and link arms with us in the purest form of service we can develop for the betterment of our community. While you're in that mind-set, CONSIDER answering your Chapter's call to stand in nomination for one or more of its elected officers. Yes, our next **annual election** will be on **April 12, 2015** for this year's leaders. **WE NEED YOU TO MAN/WOMAN-UP ... STEP FORWARD... ANSWER THE CALL PLEASE!**

And speaking of "bringing someone to tables" is gives me a perfect segue. The CHALLENGE IS FOR ALL OF US to do whatever it takes to support our next fun fundraiser! We need to get the word out about our metropolitan, area wide VVA Bob Evans "Eatout Days". The first such will be on March 30, 2015. Our driving force committee that has done all the needed groundwork now needs OUR COLLECTIVE shoulders behind this

2014-15 Officers

Gene Shurtz / Pres.

Dick Nolte/ V. Pres.

George Hart / 2nd V.P

Bob Stewart/ Secretary

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Bob Stewart / till 2015

Dick Nolte / till 2016

Ralph Wineland/till 2016

Tom Loomis/till 2017

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endeavor. It's relatively easy. All you need to do is print or grab onto a bunch of fliers and give them to people you know (friends, neighbors, relatives, and yes, even strangers. That's one fourth of the needed effort. The second fourth is to try to get a commitment from them to go to the participating Bob Evans' on our day. The next is to give them a reminder call the day before the target date, and /or on 03/30/15. Your final, and fourth part is to participate in the fruits of your labors, by going out to the unit(s) of your choice, with your flier, for one or all three meals, if you so desire!

I will be very happy if you let me see your eager, happy, "shining" face at our next chance to fellowship on March 8th. **WE NEEDS YAH!**

IN CLOSING... IT'S YOUR/OUR CHAPTER. DIG IN, EAT UP, AND ENJOY THE LIFE WE HOLD IN SACRED TRUST TO THOSE WE HONOR FOR PAYING THE ULTIMATE PRICE!

Gene Shurtz, Chapter President 2014/15

March Meeting
 Sunday March 8, 2015 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."

Homeless Veterans



A recent study conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reports that on any given night there may be over 75,600 homeless veterans in shelters and on the streets across the country. Over the course of one year (October 2008-September 2009), 136,334 veterans spent at least one night in a shelter or transitional housing program, more than 5,000 of them alongside their families.

While veterans represent 8% of the total population in the United States, they are disproportionately represented among our homeless: a startling 12% of the homeless population are veterans, or 16% of homeless adults. Most homeless veterans--over 90%--are male. About half of homeless veterans are disabled.

Around the United States, community groups are hampered by lack of space, lack of funding, and a lack of publicity about the numbers of veterans who are homeless and the challenges they face while trying to turn their lives around. As a result, veterans in need of help don't have many places to turn.

Counting Every Veteran on the Way to Ending Homelessness

VA Leaders Join Community Partners and Volunteers in Nation-wide Homeless Count

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald is taking a firsthand look at the issue of homelessness among Veterans by participating in this year's Point-in-Time (PIT) Count in Los Angeles, California. The PIT Count typically takes place in locations around the country during the month of January.

Secretary McDonald remains committed to the goal of eliminating Veteran homelessness. The January 2014 PIT Count revealed that 49,993 Veterans were homeless on a single night representing a 33-percent decline in homelessness among Veterans since 2010. In FY 2014 alone, through VA's various homeless programs, more than 72,000 Veterans and their family members were placed in permanent housing or prevented from becoming homeless.

"There is no question that the goal to end Veteran homelessness is within reach, and we remain laser-focused on it," said Secretary McDonald. "Ending Veteran homelessness in America is more than hitting a number, it's about helping communities put a system in place that can house every Veteran experiencing homelessness today and prevent it in the future. I am so heartened that over 440 mayors, governors, county executives and other local officials have joined us and are committed to ending Veteran homelessness in their communities. We will continue our work until all Veterans have a place to call home."

By estimating the number of homeless Veterans, the PIT Count gauges progress in achieving President Obama and VA's goal of ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015.

Annual data from the PIT Count also assists VA staff and partner agencies in targeting homeless resources where they are needed most.

VA has a wide range of programs that prevent and end homelessness among Veterans, including health care, hous-

ing solutions, job training and education. Also since 2010 there has been nearly 43-percent reduction in unsheltered homeless Veterans.

As part of VA's continued commitment to ending Veteran homelessness, Secretary McDonald, has directed his senior VA leaders to take part in this year's count in cities across the United States and learn how the organizations they lead can continue to support VA's efforts to end Veteran homelessness. Twenty senior VA leaders will participate in PIT counts everywhere from New York to California to places in between.

NOTE: According to the Lucas County, Ohio's VA Homeless Task Force, the number of local veterans identified as being homeless presently numbers less than 30. They usually keep in touch with them to help with their particular needs several times each month. They also are working hard to find permanent solutions to each vet's problems. An excellent example is the NRC's 75-apartments building under construction, near the CBOC, that should be ready for occupancy this Fall.

As a result of VA's work with HUD, as well as the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and other federal, state and local partners, significant progress has been made since VA's initiative to end Veteran homelessness began in 2010.

See www.va.gov/homeless. Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless should contact their local VA Medical Center and ask to speak to a homeless coordinator.

Annual Meeting For Elections

Sunday, April 12, 2015 7:00 p.m.

LAKE TOWNSHIP BUILDING

St. Rt. 795 & Cummings Rd.

Lake Township, Wood County

Fellowship at 6:30pm

VVA Chapter 35, Bob Evans Fundraiser

March 30, 2015 - Open to Close

Your Help is Needed!

The Flyer on the other side is for our March 30, 2015 Bob Evans Fund Raiser. Feel Free to make copies to pass on to your family, friends, co-workers or whomever you like, make a stack and put them in businesses (**with permission**) that would have potentially high traffic volume such as (medical offices, banks/credit unions, beauty/barber shops, library, and post offices branches, etc.) The Bob Evans Corporation generously donates 15% of each bill's total, that has one of our flyers attached. The more people we get out to support us, the more we make. **Remember**, tell those that you invite to ask at check-out for a flyer copy to hand in with their bill, if they forgot to bring theirs. Try to scan it to share with your e-mail list, Facebook, Linked In, or other social media sites. Be sure they understand that our Flyers will be **honored all day, March 30, 2015 only at all Toledo Area Locations**

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Dine to make a difference

**Vietnam Veterans
of America
Chapter #35**

**Monday, March 30, 2015
Open to Close
Valid on Dine In or Carry Out**

Bob Evans will donate 15% of sales
when you present this flyer* to

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Join us at any of our 19 locations
within the Toledo market
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*Flyer must be presented at time of check out.

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