

# The Listening Post



## Housing And Health Facility For Homeless Veterans Being Built In South Toledo *Posted: Jun 13, 2014*



Speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony were scheduled to include U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur, Toledo Mayor Michael Collins, Director of VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System Robert McDivitt, Lucas County Board of Commissioners President Carol Contrada and representatives from The Home Depot Foundation, Veterans Matter and the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board, among others.

A new housing facility is being built for homeless veterans. Not only will it give them a home, but it will also provide health and social services right on site.

Friday June 13 was the groundbreaking of the new facility on Garden Lake Parkway in south Toledo. It will be a 75-unit permanent supportive housing facility for veterans. It's the first of its kind in the state of Ohio, and something many say is desperately needed.

"When you bring a project like this to the community, this is absolutely huge. If this doesn't touch you in your heart, I don't know what will," said Rodney Harris.

Harris has five brothers and a son who have served, so today's groundbreaking on the permanent supportive hous-

ing facility hits close to home.

"It's our obligation. It's our duty to make sure that they have a place to live, a safe place to live, knowing that we're grateful for what they're doing for us, because these people, they're not drafted anymore. They do this voluntarily," said Harris.

The housing facility at the Commons at Garden Lake is a \$12.5 million project.

"It provides healthcare, access to healthcare near the Margaret Hunt Senior Center. It's part of a community, and it's something we've needed in this region for a very long time," said Marcy Kaptur.

Many in the community say they're hopeful that this will not only house and support veterans, but also show them that they're appreciated for everything they've done.

"Veterans are very proud people. We have to be there to recognize that they need help, and then just to help them," said Harris.

This will be the second permanent supportive housing facility for veterans built by the National Church Residences. They are expecting to have it built by summer 2015.

### August Meeting

Sunday August 10, 2014 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."

### 2014-15 Officers

Gene Shurtz / Pres.

Dick Nolte/ V. Pres.

George Hart / 2nd V.P

Bob Stewart/ Secretary

Gil Gonzales/Treasurer

### Board Members

Bob Stewart / till 2015

Dick Nolte / till 2016

Ralph Wineland/till 2016

Tom Loomis/till 2017

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## President's Report

Greetings from your President! During the past chill of the lingering winter we longed for these summer months. Now these days seem to be flying by! There is still time however to pitch in and help with Chapter-sponsored events. The Skirvins (Danny & Bonnie) have gone out of their way to schedule the up-coming Car and Motorcycle Show fundraiser set for September 14<sup>th</sup>. They're looking for help to make it a solid success.

The Color/Honor Guard will once again lead the Annual Labor Day Parade, and they need help with this task. They're also looking for new members to train with the newly purchased (thanks to recently donated funds) 12 gauge shotguns, to precision-fire volley salutes at ceremonies.

The soon to be formed Chapter Communication Committee needs people to regularly contact our membership. So there should be something for everybody to help with. Sign the interest sheets at a meeting, or call our office phone, TODAY! Thanks!

## Pink Slips For Soldiers

[Hondo](#) | July 14, 2014 |

We all knew this was coming. Last week, the Pentagon announced it was becoming reality.

Last Thursday, the VCSA, GEN John Campbell, indicated that 1,100 Army officers had been identified for involuntary separation due to “sequestration”. Now, it appears that the planned overall total planned for involuntary release from active duty is 2,600 officers – predominantly Captains, but with some of other ranks included. Additional cuts are expected at a later time.

No specific figures were made public regarding planned enlisted involuntary separations. However, there are far more enlisted troops than officers. And with the Army planning to draw down from an active duty strength of 520,000 to 450,000, well . . . I think we’ll be hearing about a fair number of enlisted soldiers receiving involuntary separations notices PDQ.

To add insult to injury, some of those identified to receive “pink slips” are currently serving in Afghanistan. Yeah, that’ll be *really great* for morale.

## Chapter 35 Car & M.C. Show



Don't forget to come out and support the Chapter 35 sponsored car show. More volunteers needed to help at show. September 14th 9am-4pm in Genoa, at Veterans Park Washington St. behind The Big Dipper Ice Cream. More door Prizes are also needed, please help. If you can help in anyway contact George Hart at 419-693-2718 Prize drawing starts at 3:30 pm

## New Regulations Automate Burial Payments to Veterans' Survivors



**New burial regulations, which went into effect July 7, will enable the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to automatically pay the maximum amount allowable under law to most eligible survivors without the need for a written application. Under former regulations, VA paid burial benefits on a reimbursement basis, which required survivors to submit receipts for relatively small, one-time payments that VA generally paid at the maximum amount permitted by law. Surviving spouses will now be paid upon notice of the veteran's death, using information already in VA systems.**

The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.

Effective July 7, 2014: VA is changing its monetary burial benefits regulations to simplify the program and pay eligible survivors more quickly and efficiently.

These regulations will authorize VA to pay, without a written application, most eligible surviving spouses basic monetary burial benefits at the maximum amount authorized in law through automated systems rather than reimbursing them for actual costs incurred.

Under the current regulations, VA pays for burial and funeral expenses on a reimbursement basis, which requires survivors to submit receipts for relatively small one-time payments that VA generally pays at the maximum amount permitted by law. The new burial regulations will permit VA to pay, at a flat rate, burial and

plot or interment allowances thereby enabling VA to automate payment of burial benefits to most eligible surviving spouses and more efficiently process other burial benefit claims. The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.

### Service-related Death

VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001, or up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 11, 2001. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

### Non-service-related Death

VA will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses for deaths on or after October 1, 2011 (if hospitalized by VA at time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by VA at time of death), and a \$700 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery).

For deaths on or after December 1, 2001, but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance. For deaths on or after April 1, 1988 but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (for Veterans hospitalized by VA at the time of death).

**September Chapter Meeting  
Cancelled so Chapter  
Members may support  
Our Car and Motorcycle show  
September 14, 2014  
Genoa Veterans park  
9am-4pm**

## You Might Be A Vietnam Veteran If .....

You may be a Vietnam Veteran If . . .

Your boss's first name was his rank.

Your first aerobics class was a mandatory P.T. formation.

Your first portable boom-box radio was the AN/PRC-25.

Your first government-approved diet plan was cold C-rations.

Your an Auzzie and your first taste of turkey came from a ration pack.

Your first gastronomic adventure was a "Noggie Roll" with Nuoc-Mam sauce.

Your first custom-made personalized jewelry was dog-tags.

You have never forgotten your serial number.

You can't stand sand or red mud between your toes.

You know you can't make a local call on a "piss-a-phone."

You still roll your sleeves down at night.

You know that the military invented "one size fits all."

You know that "dust-off" is not a miraculous cleaning solvent.

You know that an "air-burst" has nothing to do with comical farts.

You know that "white mice" were the host constabulary.

You know that a Sky Pilot is a Soldier in the God Squad.

You know that MPC is legitimate "funny money."

You know the Starlight Scope has nothing to do with astronomy.

You know the difference between rifles and guns.

You know that "Four-Deuce" is not a dice game.

You know that "Deuce-and-a-Half" is not a card game.

You know that "Military Intelligence" is a contradiction in terms.

You know that a "Free-Fire Zone" was not the designated smoking area.

You know that "Rolling Thunder" is more than an electrical storm.

You know that "Friendly Fire," isn't.

You know that "Mission Impossible" was much more than a TV show.

You learned locals saying "Buy Me One Saigon Tea" meant many different things.

You learned locals saying "Short Time" meant many different things.

You discovered the M-60 isn't a freeway in the United Kingdom.

You discovered that "Rock 'N Roll" could be belt-fed.

You believe troops infected with incurable VD are still held as MIA.

You thought "*We Gotta Get Outta This Place*" was the new national anthem.

You thought the "Freedom Bird" was mythical . . . until you boarded.

You'd rather sit on, than wear, your Flak Jacket. Also makes a good pillow.

You still don't wear underwear on hot, summer days.

You believe Woodstock was a side-show.

You still remember taking your salt tablets daily and the horrendous after-taste of Malaria pills.

Centipedes! . . . What can I say?

Rats! . . . Ditto!?!

Strange "varmints" and snakes!

You know that nine million men served in the military during the Vietnam war, three million of whom went to the Vietnam theater (*and their desertion rate was less than Soldiers and Marines in WW II*).

You know that 73 percent of those who died in French Indo-China were American volunteers.

You know that French Indo-China was

12,000 miles away from America and America's Marines and Soldiers performed with a tenacity and quality that may never be truly understood. (*Hanoi has admitted that 1.4 million of its soldiers died on the battlefield, compared to 58,000 total U.S. dead.*)

You know that frequently the reward for a young man's having gone through the trauma of combat was to be greeted at home by his fellow citizens and peers with studied indifference or outright hostility.

You know that Marines and Soldiers faced the issues of war and possible death, and then weighed those concerns against obligations to their country and suffered loneliness, disease, and wounds with an often contagious illnesses.

For you, combat is an unpredictable and inexact environment, and you remember moving through the boiling heat with 60 pounds of weapons and gear, causing a typical Marine or Soldier to drop 20 percent of his body weight while in the bush.

You know that mud-filled, regimental, combat bases like An Hoa were not a "fun" places where Marines joked about "legendary" giant rats like "Big Al."

You remember "Rockets, Rockets, Rockets!" was not about a 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks celebration.

You are still amazed, that Marines and Soldiers, barely out of high school, were called up from the cities and the farms to do their year in Hell and then returned without real complaint.

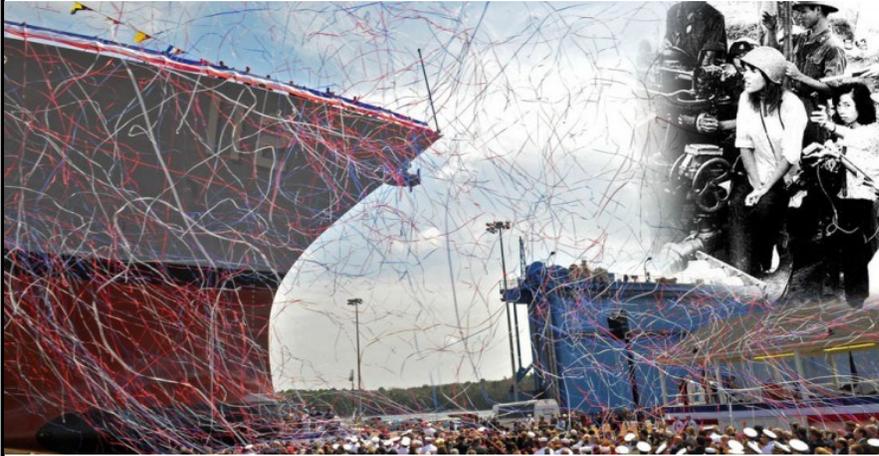
You are still astounded at the willingness of these Marines and Soldiers to risk their lives to save other Marines and Soldiers in peril.

You believe these Marines and Soldiers were some of the finest people you have ever known.

You know that one finds in them very little bitterness about the war in which they fought. The most common regret, almost to a man, is that they were not able to do more – for each other and for the people they came to help.

## Vietnam Veterans Outraged Over Navy Christening Of USS Jane Fonda

Duffel Blog



WASHINGTON, D.C. – Both the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars issued a joint statement today condemning the U.S. Navy over the launch of its newest warship, the *USS Jane Fonda*.

“Without getting into Jane Fonda’s activities during the Vietnam War, we feel that it is highly inappropriate to name a warship after an actress with no ties to the military,” said James Mitchell, a spokesman for both groups.

The ship’s name, which had been kept under wraps until right before the launch, was revealed yesterday at a star-studded event presided over by Ms. Fonda.

Ms. Fonda made a statement prior to the launch, saying, “I dedicate this ship to the brave men who fought and died in Vietnam, especially those in the 66th Viet Cong Regiment.”

The actress is extremely unpopular among some military groups for her activities during the Vietnam War, such as posing for propaganda pictures with North Vietnamese soldiers, referring to American prisoners of war as “hypocrites and liars”, and more recently cutting the line at a Target in front of a guy wearing an American flag t-shirt.

American warships, traditionally named after states, cities, and posthumous military heroes, have increasing-

ly been named after living figures ever since 1998, when the Republican-controlled Congress named 18 warships in a row after former President Ronald Reagan.

In recent years, the Navy has come under fire for its practice of naming ships after controversial individuals, such as congressional representatives [John P. Murtha](#) and [Gabrielle Giffords](#), and civil rights activists [Cesar Chavez](#) and [Medgar Evers](#).

When reached for comment, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said that there was no actual law over ship naming conventions.

“Plus, I really liked *Barbarella*,” Mabus added.

The *Jane Fonda* will form part of the newly-activated Eighth Fleet, built around the aircraft carrier *Hillary Rodham Clinton* (CVN-80), and destroyers *Family Guy*, *Lady Gaga*, and *Trayvon Martin*.

**UPDATE – The US Navy has denied any connection between the naming of the *Fonda* and recent negotiations with Vietnam over basing American ships out of Cam Ranh Bay. Navy officials have confirmed however that Cam Ranh Bay will be the *Fonda*’s first port of call and Vietnamese Minister of Defense Phung Quang Thanh was overheard commenting how his country would, “love ship long time.”**

## Chapter Honor and Color Guard Help Needed

The chapter is still looking for members to help with Honor and Color Guard. President Gene Shurtz says an offer still stands, an anonymous donor will pay the first year dues for up to 10 new members that will commit to becoming part of the guards, for that first year. Once the guards are in place, the chapter can look at purchasing uniforms for the Honor Guards as well as the Color guards. The chapter has thought about using Associate members as long as they have prior military service. Anyone that knows of someone interested should contact President Gene Shurtz

## Membership Drive Chapter 35

Vietnam (In-country) veterans and Vietnam-era veterans, service must have been between February 28, 1961 through May 7, 1975. Vietnam-era 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 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 12/31/2014! These applications must be processed by the Chapter's 1<sup>st</sup> V.P. Dick Nolte

