

# The Listening Post



## Chapter 35 Car & MC Show To Be Held September 14th !



Don't forget to come out and support the Chapter 35 sponsored car show. More volunteers are needed to help at show. September 14th, 9am-4pm in Genoa, at Veterans Park on Washington Street behind The Big Dipper Ice Cream store.

More door prizes are needed, please help. If you can help in anyway contact George Hart at 419-693-2718.

## Special October Meeting

### RSVP PLEASE

Chapter 35 will be the host of a special meeting, October 12, 2014.

Dick Nolte, Chapter 35 Vice President and District 2 Director, has asked the chapter to allow him to have his district 2 meeting in combination with our monthly meeting.

The district meeting will take place at 6pm, the Chapter meeting to follow at 7pm, the regular scheduled time.

According to Mr Nolte there should be approximately 10 to 12 guest (more or less) from other chapters within the district.

All chapter Members are urged to attend.

The chapter will supply pizza and soft drinks, after the district meeting.

Please RSVP by October 9th, to the Chapter 35 office, 419-242-4293, if you plan to attend. This is necessary for ordering the right amount of pizza.

## Stewart Working With State Rep To Improve Vet Benefits

Bob Stewart, Chapter Secretary, has been working with Ohio State Representative Teresa Fedor (D) to improve the registration process for reserving a camp site at all Ohio State Parks, for Veterans that are 100% disabled. As it stands now, 100% veterans can camp for free. However the veteran must pay for the camp site online, and get a letter from the VA that shows they are 100% disabled. This must be submitted to the parks to prove they are disabled, then the park system will refund the money paid. This is a very complicated and time consuming process. Mr. Stewart says he will have more information at the October chapter meeting.

## VA Adds Primary Care

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has added primary care to the services available to veterans through VA's Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) contracts.

Eligible veterans are already able to access inpatient specialty care, outpatient specialty care, mental health care, limited emergency care and limited newborn care for female veterans following childbirth under PC3.

VA Medical Centers have the ability to purchase non-VA medical care for veterans through contracted medical providers when they cannot readily provide the needed care due to geographic inaccessibility or limited capacity. In addition, VA is reviewing how PC3 may be used to help implement the newly enacted Veterans Choice, Access, and Accountability Act of 2014.

For more information on PC3, visit VA's Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) webpage at [www.nonvacare.va.gov/PC3/index.asp](http://www.nonvacare.va.gov/PC3/index.asp).

### 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

Office (419)-242-4293

Chaplin/419.350.4105

## Chapter Needs Help For The Honor and Color Guards

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 can use Associate members as long as they have prior military service. Anyone that knows of someone interested should contact President Gene Shurtz at 419-467-8761.

### No September Meeting

Meeting canceled so all members can go out and support our car and motorcycle show in Genoa at

The Veterans Park

9am—4pm

[History](#)**The Truth about the Vietnam War**

By Bruce Herschensohn.  
Prager University



Did the United States win or lose the Vietnam War? We are taught that it was a resounding loss for America, one that proves that intervening in the affairs of other nations is usually misguided. The truth is that our military won the war, but our politicians lost it. The Communists in North Vietnam actually signed a peace treaty, effectively surrendering. But the U.S. Congress didn't hold up its end of the bargain. In just five minutes, learn the truth about who really lost the Vietnam War.

Decades back, in late 1972, South Vietnam and the United States were winning the Vietnam War decisively by every conceivable measure. That's not just my view. That was the view of our enemy, the North Vietnamese government officials. Victory was apparent when President Nixon ordered the U.S. Air Force to bomb industrial and military targets in Hanoi, North Vietnam's capital city, and in Haiphong, its major port city, and we would stop the bombing if the North Vietnamese would attend the Paris Peace Talks that they had left earlier. The North Vietnamese did go back to the Paris Peace talks, and we did stop the bombing as promised.

On January the 23rd, 1973, President Nixon gave a speech to the nation on primetime television announcing that the Paris Peace Accords had been initiated by the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, the Viet Cong, and the Accords would be signed on the 27th. What the United States and

South Vietnam received in those accords was victory. At the White House, it was called "VV Day," "Victory in Vietnam Day." The U.S. backed up that victory with a simple pledge within the Paris Peace Accords saying: should the South require any military hardware to defend itself against any North Vietnam aggression we would provide replacement aid to the South on a piece-by-piece, one-to-one replacement, meaning a bullet for a bullet; a helicopter for a helicopter, for all things lost – replacement. The advance of communist tyranny had been halted by those accords.

Then it all came apart. And It happened this way: In August of the following year, 1974, President Nixon resigned his office as a result of what became known as "Watergate." Three months after his resignation came the November congressional elections and within them the Democrats won a landslide victory for the new Congress and many of the members used their new majority to de-fund the military aid the U.S. had promised, piece for piece, breaking the commitment that we made to the South Vietnamese in Paris to provide whatever military hardware the South Vietnamese needed in case of aggression from the North. Put simply and accurately, a majority of Democrats of the 94th Congress did not keep the word of the United States.

On April the 10th of 1975, President Gerald Ford appealed directly to those members of the congress in an evening Joint Session, televised to the nation. In that speech he literally begged the Congress to keep the word of the United States. But as President Ford delivered his speech, many of the members of the Congress walked out of the chamber. Many of them had an investment in America's failure in Vietnam. They had participated in demonstrations against the war for many years. They wouldn't give the aid. On April the 30th South Vietnam sur-



rendered and Re-education Camps were constructed, and the phenomenon of the Boat People began. If the South Vietnamese had received the arms that the United States promised them would the result have been different? It already had been different. The North Vietnamese leaders admitted that they were testing the new President, Gerald Ford, and they took one village after another, then cities, then provinces and our only response was to go back on our word. The U.S. did not re-supply the South Vietnamese as we had promised. It was then that the North Vietnamese knew they were on the road to South Vietnam's capital city, Saigon, that would soon be renamed Ho Chi Minh City. Former Arkansas Senator William Fulbright, who had been the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee made a public statement about the surrender of South Vietnam. He said this, "I am no more distressed than I would be about Arkansas losing a football game to Texas." The U.S. knew that North Vietnam would violate the accords and so we planned for it. What we did not know was that our own Congress would violate the accords. And violate them, of all things, on behalf of the North Vietnamese. That's what happened.

**October Meeting****Sunday, Oct. 12 , 2014****7:00 p.m.****LAKE TOWNSHIP BUILDING****St. Rt. 795 & Cummings Rd.****Lake Township, Wood County****Fellowship at 6:30pm**

## PTSD continues to afflict Vietnam veterans 40 years after the war



By [Alan Zarembo contact the reporter](#)

Four decades after the Vietnam War, 11% of its veterans still suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, according to new research suggesting that for some people it is a condition unlikely to ever go away.

The findings, presented Friday at a meeting of the American Psychological Assn., provide a rare look at the long-term course of PTSD in veterans.

The research updates a landmark study conducted in the 1980s, when researchers found that 15% of Vietnam veterans had the disorder. Despite the passage of many years and the increasing availability of effective treatments for PTSD, the picture remains much the same.

“People who develop PTSD, if they are going to recover, they tend to recover in the first months or years,” said Dr. Charles Marmar, a psychiatrist at New York University who worked on the original study and the follow-up. “For everybody else it is very chronic.”

Some experts not involved in the research suggested the new estimate is too high, because it relied on a standardized questionnaire to assess veterans rather than a structured clinical interview that is considered the gold standard for diagnosing the disorder.

When the researchers used the interview method to assess a subset of veterans in the study, the PTSD rate fell to 4.5%.

“How one assesses PTSD affects one’s estimate of its prevalence,” said Richard

McNally, a Harvard psychologist who believes the disorder is overdiagnosed.

The original research, known as the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study, included 1,632 veterans who had been deployed and 716 others who served during that era but never went to Vietnam.

PTSD is a change in brain chemistry caused by a traumatic experience. Not only did we have the experiences in combat but the horrid experience when coming home. We went across the “pond” in good faith with the ideals of our country, and our country turned against us in mass. Even the WWII...

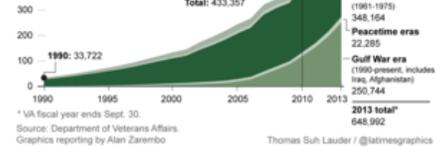
John Holladay

at 5:35 AM August 09, 2014

### A steep rise in PTSD

The number of veterans on the disability rolls for post-traumatic stress disorder has nearly quintupled since 2000.

PTSD disability cases (in thousands)



Based on that sample, researchers estimated that 31% of Vietnam veterans had suffered from PTSD at some point in their lives, but that by the late 1980s about half no longer did.

For the new study, which was funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the authors tracked down the old research subjects.

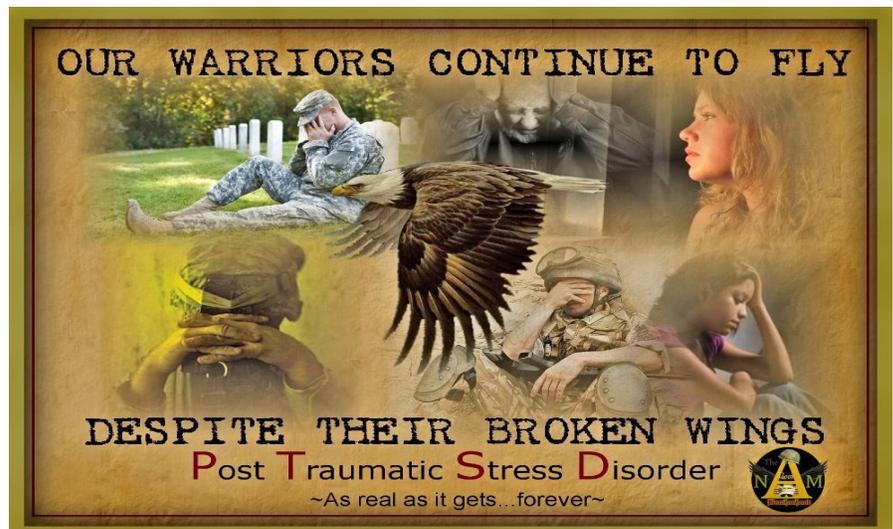
More than 500 had died. An analysis estimated that the death rate for veterans who served in the war was roughly 17% and not statistically different than the rate for veterans who did not go to Vietnam.

Death rates from cancer and heart disease — the biggest killers — did not differ either.

PTSD has long been associated with early death, so researchers were not surprised to find that among veterans who deployed to Vietnam, those who had the disorder in the 1980s were twice as likely as those without it to be dead today.

Roughly 1 in 4 had died. Their death rate from cancer was particularly elevated, possibly because those with PTSD are more likely to smoke.

Of the 1,839 veterans from the original study who were still alive, 1,450 participated in the new research.



## Exchange Wants Website Open to All Veterans



The Army Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), which operates Exchanges, Class Six stores, Shoppettes and gas stations on Army posts and Air Force bases worldwide, wants to expand who can use their online shopping option. Right now shopping both in brick and mortar stores and online is limited to ID card holders (Active Duty, Retirees, Guard and Reserve), 100 percent disabled veterans and, for the physical stores, veterans who are hospitalized near a store location. That means that 90 percent of veterans aren't eligible to shop at the stores, which offer products with no sales tax -- a potentially major savings, especially if you are buying high ticket items.

The expansion, which must be approved by the Defense Department, could come on the heels of a \$50 million upgrade to AAFES website ordering platform, [according to officials with the Military Officers Association of America \(MOAA\)](#). That upgrade is scheduled to launch this fall, AAFES officials said.

Other than what seems like a minor

impact to potential income tax revenue in the state in which the user resides, expanding online shopping to all veterans would have literally no negative impact on current users. If anything, increasing AAFES revenue would be positive, advocates of the proposal say, because so much of the system's income is pushed back to MWR programs on bases worldwide.

AAFES officials estimate that expanding online sales to all veterans could bump ecommerce income from the \$200 million to \$1 billion by 2019. And since 70 percent of AAFES earnings go right back into funding MWR activities, that could be a huge boost to benefits for everyone.

One concern some have expressed over the expansion, said Karen Golden, the deputy director of government relations and military family issues with MOAA is "benefit creep." If this benefit is expanded to all veterans regardless of service time, they worry, others will follow.

But Golden says her organization doesn't think that's going to happen.

"We believe this is very limited," she

said. "This is a very small token of appreciation to everyone who has honorably worn the uniform."



AAFES as well as the Navy Exchange system operates on military bases worldwide. Income goes into MWR and back into improving the stores. A very small tax payer subsidy helps goods get to overseas locations without charging \$5 for a Coke. Unlike the Defense Commissary Agency, which receives a tax payer subsidy to operate, the exchange service funds itself.

AAFES officials said the expansion would have literally no impact on those who currently shop there.

"Opening [shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com) to all honorably discharged veterans would be costless as the Exchange would leverage platforms already in place," Judd Anstey, an exchange spokesman said.

Veterans will be verified through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) system, which tracks all living veterans as well as active duty users, AAFES officials said.

[Tom Philpott](#)



Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Summer 2014 catalog.