

Pennsylvania
State Council



The PASC Newsletter

October, 2019

Vietnam Veterans of America Pennsylvania State Council

A Congressionally Chartered Veterans Service Organization

Editor's Notes From the PASC Sessions

[POW-MIA Committee by Bernie Bingham](#)

Currently as of 10/4/19: Vietnam 1587 Missing and from Pennsylvania there are 89/90 Missing.

A 12 X 18 foot flag was unfurled by the delegates to demonstrate the enormity of the issue. In addition, statistics were upgraded and information was provided where to procure information on this issue. The main message from Bernie is "Go home and make a difference."

Web Sites to check out:

[Www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil)

[Www.virtualwall.org](http://www.virtualwall.org)

www.pow-miafamilies.org

www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces

www.nationalalliance.org

[License Plate Program— Larry Googins](#)

Applications for special organizational registration plate program is running well. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. The application is on the PASC website for your convenience.

[Web Site — Janet McManus](#)

Any and all changes to the PASC Website will go through either Tom Haberkorn, Larry Googins or George Puzio to be communicated to Janet. Changes must be specific in nature. District Directors are encouraged to remind individual chapters to keep their information current regarding websites. This is a resource used by PASC officers and at-large individuals to contact the correct people.

[VISN4 — Larry Holman](#)

Copies of E-mails from VISN 4 regarding VSO teleconferences were provided to the VVA Secretary

[Women Veterans and Minority — Michelle Wilcox](#)

HB 2924 Housing for Women Veterans Act — No action has been taken. Teri Carr took this tier for Michelle. There will be a "Women Veterans Conference" coming up in March and details will be forthcoming in this newsletter. In addition, the ROK Marines discussed their initiative in getting full recognition from VVA at the National level.

Membership Affairs — William McElroy

Discussed the advantages of sending letters to At-Large members for each chapter and attracting new members to each chapter. In addition, the Life Membership @\$50 was discussed.

Veterans Incarcerated — Tim Susengil

... PA Board of Pardons has a newly elected secretary who is a former inmate.
... PA Dept of Corrections has five specialized housing units for Veterans only; good progress being made.

Veterans' Benefits

... HR 299 (Blue Water Navy) extends Agent Orange Benefits to thousands of Navy Veterans. The VA will act on these claims on 1/1/20

... The VA has a new appeals process which is designed to improve processing time.

PTSD

... The committee discussed PTSD Theory from Vet Center Model and compared it to other models.

Government Affairs — Rich Hudzinski

... Establish a complete state veteran's commission, or an alternative equivalent, which reports directly to the Governor on matters pertaining to Pennsylvania veterans.

... Review the Veterans Trust Fund by adding a Board of Trustees to bring it into compliance .

... Improve the state system for caring for aging veterans in need of its services.

... Review the sentences of incarcerated veterans in the state correctional system for mitigating circumstances due to PTSD and TBI and institute proper Pre-sentence investigations at the county court level to help prevent future problems.

... Investigate through the State Veterans commission the administration of the Real Estate Tax Exemption Program.

... Support those efforts which preserve or expand the functions and roles of the present State Civil Service Commission for the purposes of ensuring the preservation and improvement of the merit service system and the proper application of the veterans preference laws in state gov't employment.

(A full report can be obtained from 3rd VP Rich Hudzinski)



In New Jersey, in order to access our beaches, you have to purchase a beach tag. This is the beach pass I've never seen in the 50 years I've lived here!!

The [Liberty Bell Chapter #266 of the Vietnam Veterans of America](#) is holding its 23rd Annual Reading of the Names on the [Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#) located at Front and Spruce Streets on October 26th at 12 noon.



Amtrak offers Veteran, Military Member Discounts

Veterans can enjoy a 10% savings on rail fares across the entire Amtrak network. Enjoy onboard amenities such as a Café Car, WiFi, power outlets and spacious seating for a comfortable ride on your next trip.

To take advantage of this offer, select "Military Veteran" as your traveler type on the booking widget online. The 10% discount will automatically apply to fares when qualifying travel is selected.

[VA Refunds \\$400 Million in Mistaken Home-loan Fees](#)

[Book: Trump Toyed With Executive Order to Close Parts of VA Health System](#)

[2020 Military Retiree, VA, and Social Security Pay Bump](#)

[Combat Troops at Higher Risk for Opioid, Heroin Addiction, Study Says](#)

[Findings May Provide Insight about Development of Neurodegenerative Conditions like Parkinson's Disease](#)

[In Celebration of Children](#)

[How to Get Goodies to Troops Overseas in Time for the Holidays](#)

[Barbara Barrett Confirmed as Next US Air Force Secretary](#)

[Updated VVA Brochures](#)



From the National Convention . . .



From Left to Right: Barbara Blood, NY, Kathy Penfield, State President, New York; Nancy Redowski, Deputy Director, Pennsylvania;

Carl Kurtis, Delegate, Chapter 862; Bobbie Morris, Region II Director; Fran Guevremont, Region I Director; Linda Haberkorn, Delegate Chapter 36

Not in the Photo are Nancy Switzer, Past National VVA President and Mary Miller, Past National AVVA President who attended 2019 convention.



Our own Michelle Wilcox singing the Star Spangled Banner . . .



Veterans Appreciation Breakfast

VETERANS— Please RSVP by Friday, October 25



Senator Bob Mensch
24th District

Please join me for breakfast to honor the military men and women who have served our country. The Keynote Speaker will be Major General Anthony J. Carrelli, Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

- ★ DATE: Saturday, November 2, 2019
- ★ TIME: Doors open at 7:45 a.m. for check-in and the event is from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- ★ LOCATION: Upper Perkiomen High School
Two Walt Road, Pennsburg, PA 18073

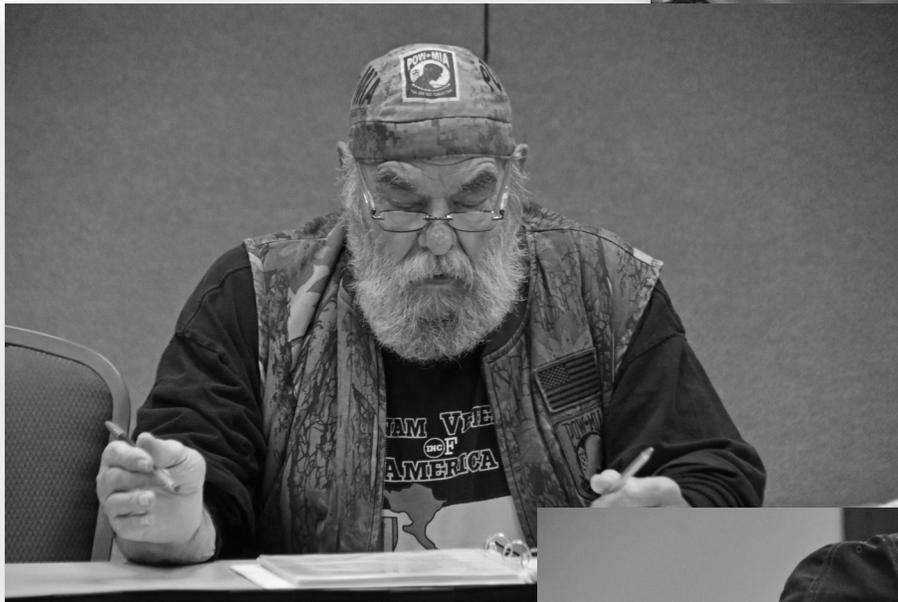
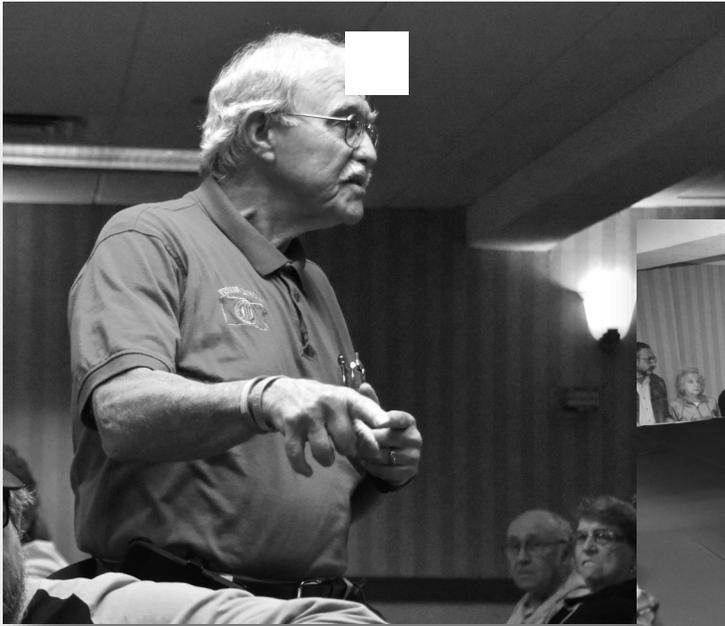
Montgomery County veterans can bring their DD214 (military discharge papers) and a photo identification card (such as a Pennsylvania Driver's License) to receive a Veterans Photo ID Card. Bucks County veterans can obtain information on getting their Veterans Photo ID Card by contacting Bucks County Military Affairs; Berks County veterans can obtain information by contacting the Berks County Recorder of Deeds office.



Seating is limited. Veterans may register themselves and one guest by contacting Senator Mensch's office at (215) 541-2388 or online at www.senatormensch.com/veterans-appreciation-breakfast.



Faces of Pennsylvania State Council; Funny how hard work and success seem to have something in common!





Chapter 791 sponsored the “Vietnam Traveling Wall” at Reedsville, Pennsylvania from August 7th through the 11th. Everyone in the chapter had a wonderful time and it proved to be a great experience. We had many visitors to the monument! We had so many “Thank-You’s” to the people of the community and our touring friends for all their help and support in this endeavor.

AVVA had T-shirts made up with the “COST OF PEACE” on the front and the names of the KIA of Mifflin County and Juniata County on the back. In addition, we had a wreath for each of the KIA in both counties.