



# Florida Veteran

## Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida, Inc.

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## Florida's 28th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion

Sunday, April 19th The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall, The Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom Tribute Panels Walls will be escorted from Eastern State College Cocoa Campus, Clearlake Road at 10 am. Be there an hour earlier for line up. We are going to need help at the Wall Escort selling T -Shirts, flags, and help with the parking lot control. If you would like to help, please contact Greg at 321-501-6896 or e-mail at [vets2gether@cfl.rr.com](mailto:vets2gether@cfl.rr.com).

ESC has always been a big supporter of the Reunion and they said we could use their parking lot forever if we clean it up when we are done, so please help police it up before you pull out. There will be coffee & donuts available that morning for a donation courtesy of the USA River Rats. More than 1500 motorcycles and vehicles took part in the escort last year and several joined in along the way. We should arrive about 11am at Wickham Park. At the back pavilions the VVB will host a covered dish picnic, grilling hamburgers & hot dogs to feed the many volunteers there to help set up the memorial displays. Please bring a covered dish or snack foods to share. Anyone with large drink containers are asked to please bring them filled with iced tea, lemonade, Kool-aid or even water to share with the many hot & thirsty workers. We will have plenty of cups, plates and napkins. There is so much to do, but with everyone pitching in it is easily accomplished. The sign-up book will be at the Wall Set-up, please remember to volunteer some of your time throughout the week.

Opening Ceremony is Monday evening April 20th starting with the Wreath presentations at 6 PM with the guest speakers starting at 7:00pm and will feature the presentation of colors, several speakers who support the Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion, a rifle salute and taps. The memorials will be open to the public 24 hours a day through April 26<sup>th</sup>. It will be a busy week and we will need lots of help this year to set up the tents, generators and light trees.

The Tentative schedule of events is listed to the right.

***"DEFENDING OUR FREEDOM"***

### 2015 Tentative Schedule of Events

- Sunday- Apr 19**  
10:00am Wall Escort from Eastern State College (formerly BCC) Cocoa  
12:00pm Doc Holiday, Covered Dish Picnic and Wall Set-Up
- Monday- Apr 20**  
6:00pm Presentation of wreaths  
7:00pm Opening Ceremonies at the Wall
- Thursday- Apr 23**  
3:00pm Doc Holiday  
6:30-8:00pm Smokin Country  
9:00-11:00pm Absolute Blue Band
- Friday- Apr 24**  
12:00pm Doc Holiday  
1:30-3:00pm Two Of Diamonds  
3:00pm K9 Demonstration Main Stage Area  
4:00-5:30pm The Tree Frogs  
6:30-8:00pm The Last Chance Band  
9:00-11:00pm Tyme Machine Rock Band
- Saturday- Apr 25**  
11:00am Opening Ceremonies/Massing of the Colors/LZ Helicopter Landing  
12:00pm Doc Holiday  
1:00-2:30pm Two of Diamonds  
3:00pm Patience Mason at the Wall Pavilion "Recovering From The War"  
3:00pm Marines Take The Hill Main Stage Area  
3:30-5:00pm The Gypsy Rain Band  
5:00-6:00 Michael J. Martin Memorial  
6:00-7:00pm Suncoast Vietnam Vets "The Last Patrol"  
7:00-8:30pm Horsepower Band "Tribute To Lynyrd Skynyrd"  
9:30-11:30pm Tyme Machine Rock Band
- Sunday- Apr 26**  
10:00am Church Services By Rev. John Steer  
11:00am Doc Holiday  
11:30am Patience Mason at the Wall Pavilion "The War At Home"  
1:00-3:00pm The Country Classic's Band  
4:00pm Melbourne Municipal Band at the Wall  
5:00pm Closing Ceremony at the Wall
- Monday- Apr 27**  
9:00am Cleanup Wickham Park and Wall Take Down
- Brought to you by the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc.**  
**PLEASE - NO COOLERS, GLASS OR PETS IN REUNION OR MEMORIAL AREA**  
Schedule is tentative and subject to change

The Vietnam and all Veterans of Florida State Coalition would like to recognize the following members/organizations for awards that were presented at our Annual Banquet held this past January. Florida Dustoff Association - Organization of the Year, Tom Burton - Veteran of the Year, Bill Sauerwine - Member of the Year, and LaPlaya Resort and Suites - Business of the Year. Ralph Earrusso was presented with a Meritorious Service Recognition for his many years of dedication and support to all veterans.

In addition, our 2015 executive board members are: Robert "Doc" Neitzel, President, "Big" Al Diaz 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Ralph Earrusso 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Roberta Neitzel, Secretary, Jacque Earrusso, Treasurer and Van Carter, Sgt of Arms.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Vietnam and All Veterans State Coalition, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all to the 28<sup>th</sup> Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion. The membership of the VVB has been hard at work all year to bring this Reunion to fruition once again and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their dedication to helping and honoring ALL veterans.

As I begin my fourth year as the President of the Coalition, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all members once again for giving me the distinct honor of representing them as their President. This past year the coalition supported our troops (past and present); this also includes our POW's by making a donation to The Ride Home, sponsoring a POW to the event in Andersonville this past September.

This year's theme of the VVB's 28<sup>th</sup> Reunion is Defending our Freedom. I personally believe that this rings so true..with all that is going on in the world today, we must defend our freedom, after all isn't this what every veteran and active duty member takes an oath to do: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same" unfortunately at this juncture in time it is sometimes hard to determine exactly who the enemy is and it is becoming more apparent that we must remain ever so vigilant here in this country because one no longer knows where that enemy might strike next.

A focal point for many organizations as of late is membership - we, the Vietnam Vets are not getting any younger and we need to find ways to attract our younger vets (Desert Storm, OEF, OIF) into our ranks. We need their involvement not only to assist them in obtaining their benefits and to help them readjust to civilian life, but we will need to pass the torch to them - they will be the ones to carry on for us once we are gone.

I find that most organizations have similar goals to that of the coalition - to get information out to our fellow brothers and sisters so they can obtain assistance and to ensure that the Veteran community is not forgotten and that legislation to assist us is proposed and passed. An issue here is that most times, each organization has their own agenda and only pursues the issues that they are concerned with. If we cannot agree amongst ourselves as to the importance or priorities of these issues and direct these to our politicians, then our voices will never be heard by our State and Federal Legislators. If we as organizations cannot unite on issues pertaining to all of us, and cannot determine the best way to fund these issues, then we fail as organizations as our goals outlined in most of our charters and/or by-laws have fallen to the wayside and have been long forgotten.

I would like to invite all to discuss with their general membership joining the State Coalition, to participate in our quarterly meetings held throughout the State of Florida and to take advantage of all the information that is disseminated from our member organizations. The Coalition is a voting member of the Florida Veterans Council and with your organization becoming a member of ours, your voice can be directed and heard where it is important. I believe you will find as I have stated, that the goals of the State Coalition are not so different from yours and we need to unite - We all served together, fought together and we are now all fighting for the rights of veterans - shouldn't this be a united front ?

Keep all active duty service members in your thoughts and prayers and please pray that each and every one of them ALWAYS return home to their loved ones safely.

Respectfully yours,  
Robert "Doc" Neitzel  
President, Vietnam and All Veterans  
of Florida State Coalition

The Veteran Community lost a wonderful brother and friend this past year, Michael J Martin. Michael spent 12 months in Vietnam, mostly as a Pointman, with the 11th Infantry/Americal Division '68-'69. His citations included: Silver and Bronze Stars, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantryman's Badge. Michael was a mainstay at the Reunion for countless years, performing and entertaining us all.

In the early eighties, Martin teamed with Tim "Doc" Holiday, a decorated, three-tour Navy Corpsman in Vietnam, and the duo performed all across the country. Several songs from their albums, "Johnny Comes Marchin' Home" and "Time To Lay It Down" became anthems that have helped galvanize the veteran movement. Their musical skills and inspiring leadership made them prominent figures in the cause. Above and beyond the call of music, Martin and Holiday founded THE LAST PATROL and began marching across America to call attention to vet issues. In 1985, they walked 300 miles from Dallas to The Alamo. "Remember The Alamo! And quit telling us to forget about Vietnam!" was the message. The march was so successful, that in 1987 they did a 1600 mile trek from The Alamo to The Wall in DC! There were over 40 other marches, including 900 miles from FL to DC in 1997, when THE LAST PATROL was reinforced by a new generation of vets including many members of Florida Dustoff !!

Michael passed away December 2, 2014 and it is our understanding that there will be a memorial tribute to Michael in the Reunion Area on Saturday – check the schedule of events for information. We salute you Michael and you surely will be missed !!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard I want to welcome everyone to the 28th annual reunion, I hope you enjoy yourself and have a good time. Also if you want to help feel free to ask as we can always use extra people to do things. Also if you would like to join the VVB we have membership apps at the command post trailer next to the beer tent.

As taking over as the President of the VVB recently, I would like to thank everyone that has dedicated themselves and worked hard to put this reunion together for all these years, especially Ralph Earrusso who has held the position of Director for the Reunion/Reunion Committee for 21 years, since the 7<sup>th</sup> Reunion and Jacque Earrusso who has held the position of Secretary for 21 years as well - they have worked tirelessly and have been extremely dedicated to the VVB, Reunion and Veterans for so many years it is hard to express our thanks to them. Without them a lot of what we have accomplished would not have been possible.

With that said, we are hoping for much better weather this year and hope that you will support us in celebrating and commemorating our brothers and sisters and please remember to keep the troops in your prayers.

**Al Diaz  
President**

**Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard**

## The Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard---About Us

A small group of Vietnam veterans in Central Brevard started to meet in 1985 to help each other to deal with lingering issues from the Vietnam War. In 1986 it developed a philosophy and a purpose to attract other Vietnam Vets and formally organized. The primary goal was to assist other veterans. The camaraderie was the glue that developed into a program to help those with PTSD symptoms

and the concomitant problems associated with it such as substance abuse and homelessness.

An area of great concern was the POW/MIA unresolved problem and the actions of the government to deal with it honestly. It is still a frustrating matter that we continue to pursue.

Within two years, the VVB organized and hosted its first Vietnam Veterans Reunion. This event eventually became famous throughout the country and today is **the** premier event of its kind. After the Gulf War it became evident that the problems faced by Vietnam Veterans were not much different than those faced by subsequent generations and we began a systematic effort to welcome all veterans into the VVB. We changed our name in 2000 to reflect that commitment at that year's reunion and by 2003 the Vietnam Veterans of Brevard officially became the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard (we still abbreviate to VVB to, well, to abbreviate).

From the start efforts were made to find a place for distressed veterans to go to regroup and get back on their feet. The story cannot be told in this brief synopsis but suffice it to say, we stumbled our way to it. In fact, we did it ourselves and the hard work and perseverance of those who got it off the ground cannot be understated. We call it the Veterans Transitional Facility and since 1990 it has helped thousands of local vets, which include their families, get back on track. Today the program houses 20 vets and their family members at any given time and sets the pace for a smooth transition back into the mainstream of life. Those that have taken advantage of the opportunity never forget.

Our Reunion depended on various organizations to provide the sacred centerpiece, a mobile Memorial Wall. Getting those commitments coordinated were sometimes nail biting scary. In 2005 we came close to not having one; so we decided to build one. In less than a year, with the committed efforts of several local businesses, Brevard citizens, a laid off vet and other VVB volunteers we had our own Wall on display at our Reunion in 2006. In addition, we make The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall available for other events throughout the country.

Those are the stars of the VVB but in no way are the only services we offer to the veteran community here in Brevard and even beyond. We have a Color Guard and Rifle Team who manage to come together for local events and memorials in spite of the fact that they must coordinate their own work schedules to accomplish those duties. We provide veterans to speak to school students about the experience of war firsthand, beyond what they find in the history books. There is a mobile museum available for community events where citizens can touch the experience; even smell it. Our newsletter has been published since day one and is the source for other events, projects and activities in which we and other veterans groups are involved.

So what about membership? The most common theme heard at reunions for not joining is—I'm not a Vietnam vet. But that isn't a requirement to join. We are an organization dedicated to the support of our local *veteran community*. A veteran who served in peacetime, a veteran's family and any citizen that wishes to lend hands-on support of veterans is part of that community. The Vietnam veterans who started the VVB never intended it to be an exclusive club. They recognized that family members and friends were also affected by the times in which the War took place and as we grew, new generations and their families were welcomed as their own Eras unfolded.

The only requirement for membership in the VVB is a \$20.00 check and a desire to support your veteran community. Many members will assist at the reunion. Others find they're best suited for other activities. So if you like what you've read so far, give our

Membership Chairman a call. Information can be found on our website shown below.

For more about us and our work check out the website at [www.vietnamandallveteransofbrevard.com](http://www.vietnamandallveteransofbrevard.com)

**VVB Mailing Address**  
**Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc.**  
**PO Box 237225**  
**Cocoa, FL 32923-7225**

## The Wall Report

I am Richard "Doc" Russo, the new wall manager for the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard Traveling Memorial Wall. I am looking forward to traveling along with all the people and stories I will meet and hear along the way.

I have very big shoes to fill after the great job that Greg and Mo Welsh have done over the past 10 years. They have been great ambassadors for our organization and our cause.

As of Christmas week The Wall is in major refurbishment. It has been stripped down to bare metal and has now been dropped off at the powder coaters. After it has been powder coated it will go to the body shop to have the names highlighted and buffed so it is ready for our 2015 run.

In 2015 we have 16 events booked and are already working on our 2016 schedule. For 2016 all the major holidays are confirmed with enough interested to fill the schedule for another year. In addition, at this time we already have a hand full interested in 2017.

I know I have said it before, but once again, I would like to thank Greg and Mo for their countless hours of dedication to the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall and wish them a safe and happy retirement.

Hope to see you all at the reunion in Melbourne.

**Richard "Doc" Russo**

**You can check our schedule at [www.travelingwall.us](http://www.travelingwall.us)**

# FLORIDA DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION



**Dedicated Unhesitating Service To Our  
Fighting Forces**

***"So Others May Live"***

On behalf of Florida Dustoff Association I would like to take a moment to say "Welcome Home" and welcome to the 28<sup>th</sup> Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard Reunion. The Florida Dustoff Association is comprised of Dustoff Medics, Pilots, Corpsmen, Donut Dollies, Med-Evacs and many whom themselves have been "dusted-off" from the Vietnam, Desert Storm, and the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. Please stop by our campsite in Camp Ground B at this year's coming reunion if you are one of the above to say hello, or are interested in joining our organization. **ALL ARE WELCOMED AT DUSTOFF!!**

This past years elected officers are: Bob "Doc" Neitzel President, Ron "Doc" Custer Vice President, Roberta Neitzel, Secretary and Treasurer and Doc Combs, Chaplin.

Members of Florida Dustoff participate in numerous veterans related events in conjunction with other local organizations...Stand downs, Welcome Home programs, packages to our troops, Wreaths Across America, to name a few. We all strive for the same end result...taking care of our fellow brothers and sisters. I would like to Congratulate to all recipients of awards last year: Member of the Year – Robert Neitzel. Certificate of Appreciation for Service to Dustoff –Jacque Earrusso, Ralph Earrusso, Hjordis Sauerwine, Bill Sauerwine, Michelle Wakefield, Rose Fantaccione, Bobbi Jo Dino, Anthony Mathews-Carter, Larry Dutro, Chris Hamrick to name a few. Plaques were also presented to the USA River Rats Honor Guard and State Senator Dorothy Hukill

**Robert Neitzel – President Florida Dustoff**

***"WHEN I HAVE YOUR WOUNDED"***



## USA RIVER RATS

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, Christmas and Happy New Year. Hard to believe it is 2015.

It is with heavy hearts to announce that we lost 3 members in 2014. Jerry "Boomer" Agerstrand, Ken "Radioman" Wakefield and Charles "Otter" Tripp. They are, and will be missed by all that knew them.

We have our usual events at Vista Manor Nursing Home which are Easter Dinner, Fourth of July Cookout, Fun Day and Thanksgiving. They so look forward to seeing us and we enjoy them as well.

The Medal of Honor Park has been on hold, but we are planning on moving forward with it this year. We are a 501(c)3 corporation and are looking for donations and support for building this great tribute to all of our Medal of Honor Recipients. If you or your organization is interested in making a donation, please contact George Golden at 321-693-4281 or Don Flammio at 321-652-0000.

As usual we are looking forward to The Wall Escort on April 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be assisting with the parking at Eastern State College, have coffee and donuts available (for donations) and will be selling key chains. Please stop by and see us.

At the reunion May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> we will not have our concession trailer in the vendor area, but will have our booth with various items for sale (T-shirts, key chains, hatbands, etc.) We will also be having our Annual Rib Dinner in the camp ground (campsites B74-77) on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a limited amount of tickets so if you are interested, please contact one of our officers listed below.

You can always check out our website ([usariverrats.com](http://usariverrats.com)) for updates and upcoming events.

If you would like more information, or would like to consider membership in our organization, please feel free to contact any officer listed below.

President	Steve "Scarecrow" Worrell	321-698-0009
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	Ron "Ronbo" Saxby	321-914-9046
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice	Bill "Chapy" Chapman	321-403-4518
Treasurer	Al "Gunner" Dudley	321-258-3098
Secretary	Michelle "Screamer" Wakefield	321-323-4382
Chaplain	Tracy "Woody" Rac	321-684-1805
Quarter Master	Theresa "Jersey Girl" Lewis	609-556-9269
Historian		
Sr Sgt @ Arms	Skip "Grease Monkey"	321-431-3352
Sgt @ Arms	Linda "Sgt Smurf" Walker	321-507-8884
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Jerry "Wolverine" Celona	321-431-3352
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Andrea "LitBit" Howard	321-544-1230
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Nicole "Luv Bug" Morin	407-234-5907
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Linda "Radar" Patricks	321-427-5756

Asst Sgt @ Arms	Bobbie Jo "BAD" Dino	321-302-4781
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Greg "Clueless" Boyle	321-327-4575
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Gordon "Flash" Benson	717-571-3199
Asst Sgt @ Arms	Mike "Cowboy" Angelo	321-243-0369
SR Advisor	Al "Big Al" Diaz	321-863-0575
Advisor	Al "Gunner" Dudley	321-258-3098
Advisor	Robert "Dustoff" Neitzel	386-527-5445
Advisor	Wayne "Wayneo" Smith	321-698-5689

**USA RIVER RATS**  
**Michelle Wakefield**  
**Secretary**



The Vietnam Brotherhood is an in-country, fraternal association of Vietnam Veterans. The Vietnam Brotherhood's organizational purpose is first social. However, the stated desire of the membership and officers are to help one another support our respective communities through charitable drives and donations as well as support Veterans' rights issues and all other legal activities common to Veterans organizations. Our goals include:

- To help each other in our separate Company's
- To help other Vietnam Veterans
- To help other Veterans
- To help our community
- To educate the public about the true Vietnam Veteran
- To teach the young, so it does not happen again
- To be **Proud** to be in a free nation, under **God**.

We invite all In-Country Veterans who still remember the brotherhood we once had to re-light the fire. The Vietnam Brotherhood was born to serve you, not for you to become a servant.

Our website address is [www.vietnambrotherhood.us](http://www.vietnambrotherhood.us) please check us out.

### **BRavo COMPANY**

Bravo company continues to be very busy, as you know we hold our meeting the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, and the last Monday is dinner night, we have had great attendance at both our meeting and dinner night, meetings are around 25-30 and the dinner nights are 28 plus.

Also we have brought in about 2 new members for 2014 and have already got 3 vets with paper work in for 2015.

With regret we had to give up our fundraiser event with the Red Sox, it' was a very difficult decision for us, as we gave away donations to veteran's and veteran groups.

So our major fundraiser has come to an end, However with any group, there is always someone one who steps up to the plate, this first person is Janet Lamothe, wife of long time Brother DR. Rich, she is a great crafts person with sewing and machines, etc. She did a quilt and her and Dr. Rich raffled it off, and donated to B.Co which was a tremendous donation.

We have been asked to escort the Grand Marshall float this year at the Edison of lights parade Feb 21st, it is a great honor for us. We will also be part of the parade with additional Bravo Company personnel in the veterans part of the parade, I am hoping to have at least 25 or more people from our group, we have designed a format for our parade involvements with not just Motorcycles but another 12 people can ride in trucks etc, it should be a great setting. We will also be in the Ft. Myers Beach "Shrimp Parade March 14th.

Dec 13 we were a part of the Wreaths Across America, to honor those who lost their lives and are buried at sea.

We are looking forward to 2015 and hope to be able to continue our generous donation programs, like everything else, we'll just have to budget.

Happy 2015, and God Bless us all

**THE VIETNAM BROTHERHOOD  
BRAVO COMPANY  
EDDY BELL**

**DELTA COMPANY**

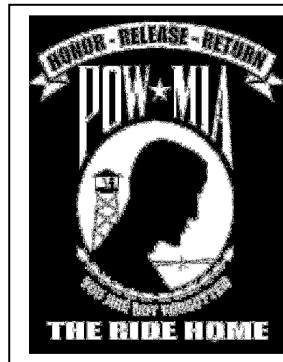
**We have worked very hard the past few months participating in various events/functions. Many of the functions/events we have taken part of include:**

September, we manned a table at the Bavarian Bash and parked cars for the event in Punta Gorda to raise funds for The Wall. October, Members attended bingo at the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Home. Attended the press conference announcing that the committee had raised sufficient funds to purchase the Wall which will be placed in Punta Gorda. November – Members provided security at a stand down at American Legion Post 110 in Port Charlotte. Provided the security, cooking and selling raffle tickets to support the Wall fundraising event at Moose Lodge 2121 in Port Charlotte. A Delta Company member will provided the music at a Veteran's Day event in Naples. Members attended the Empty Bowls Program at the New Day Christian Church in Port Charlotte. Members took part in the brick dedication at Lashley Park in Punta Gorda sponsored by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Members attended a flag raising ceremony at the old Court House in Punta Gorda. Members attended the Veteran's Day ceremony in Lashley Park sponsored by the Charlotte County Veterans Council and the Military History Museum. Members escorted the Traveling Wall from Punta Gorda to Cape Coral. The Brotherhood participated in decorating the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veteran's Nursing Home. Members volunteered at the Muscle Car City Car Show to help raise funds for The Wall. December - Members volunteered to assist with bingo at the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veteran's Nursing Home. Members escorted Vietnam Traveling Wall to Arcadia and provided security

for the Vietnam Traveling Wall in Arcadia from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Members took part in the Wreaths Across America program at Sarasota National Cemetery and Members took The Wall model to a pro golf tournament in Orlando to raise funds for the memorial. On Christmas Eve morning, members organized a bike run to deliver meals and gifts to needy veteran's families in Charlotte County.

As you can see, Delta Company is extremely involved with supporting veterans and our community and invites all interested in joining to contact us. We are still raising funds needed to Purchase/build a Vietnam Replica Wall to be placed in Punta Gorda, Charlotte County.

**THE VIETNAM BROTHERHOOD  
DELTA COMPANY  
VAN CARTER**



**HONOR-RELEASE  
-RETURN, Inc.**

**3818 Litchfield Loop Lake Wales, Florida 33859**

[www.honorreleasereturn.com](http://www.honorreleasereturn.com)

### The Mission

Working for the repatriation of live American Prisoners of War in any form of captivity world-wide. To devote all available manpower and resources of the organization to build political support through education and attain mission favorable outcomes. To craft and pass effective legislation, gain government action and success in repatriating Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action. To act as a catalyst for the POW/MIA community through communication, organization and coordination of efforts to foster common success of all and nurture a universal will to account for all the missing.

### The Name

Why the name Honor Release Return? We have come together to take action and restore **honor** to our government by stopping the dishonor and hold them accountable. Our government has abandoned young patriots in captivity and we have come together to gain the **release** of their person alive or their remains and to **return** them to their country, their home and their family. This is our mission and this is our strategy. Truth and honor are our sabers. We will wield them unrelentingly and expertly, no matter how long the fight, until they all come home.

### The Reason

#### Unaccounted for American Military Personal

<u>WWI</u>	<u>WWII</u>	<u>Korea</u>	<u>Cold War</u>	<u>Vietnam</u>	<u>War on Terror</u>
3,344	73,677	7,926	126	1,654	6

### Our Demands

1. U.S.G. formally request the return of all live Americans who are unaccounted for, in captivity or being detained in any foreign country

2. U.S.G. under take all measures necessary to repatriate all Americans who are unaccounted for, in captivity or being detained in any foreign country.

3. U.S.G. under take all measures necessary to obtain all information held and/or known by foreign governments, groups and individuals concerning all Americans who are now or who have been unaccounted for at any time.

4. All information, in any form regardless of when or how obtained, pertaining to Americans unaccounted for prior to 1991 be declassified and made available for public inspection.

5. Funding of all actions to account for Americans who are unaccounted for be fully funded by the U.S.G.

6. All remains recovered in association with unaccounted for Americans, past, present and future, be identified and/or confirmed using the latest scientific means and that all remains be tested and analyzed for age at death using minimal remains to allow for a 2nd, independent DNA analysis if family members so desire.

**It is time for Americans to STAND for those who CANNOT STAND for themselves.**

CONTACT US Together we can make happen!

BOB "Bulldog" Ousley [bousle19@comcast.com](mailto:bousle19@comcast.com)

Jim "Moe" Moyer [moehog@verizon.net](mailto:moehog@verizon.net)



## SEMPER FIDELIS AMERICA, INC

Semper Fidelis America Inc. was started by Founder and President James R. Martina (Papa Smurf) who did six tours in Vietnam and was one of the few U.S. Marines attached to help at Hamburger Hill. His vision was to help other veterans in need. Today Semper Fidelis America holds numerous yearly functions to help raise money for our military brothers and their families. Our group reaches out to many other organizations. Semper Fidelis America Inc. is a not for profit organization.

Our mission is to support the VA Convalescent home located in Baldwin Park at 5201 Raymond Street Orlando, Florida. We hold numerous yearly functions in order to raise money to help these veterans. Our organization is not for profit, so all the proceeds from our functions go to veterans in need and their families. We also work together with other organizations such as Vietnam Veterans of Central Florida caretakers of National Vietnam War Museum also located in Orlando. Youth organizations, such as Orlando Devil Dog Young Marines, which always help with our yearly dinners for disabled veterans.

**JOHN MURPHY  
PRESIDENT**



## VETERANS COUNCIL OF MARTIN COUNTY

The Veterans Council of Martin County Inc. is a federally tax-exempt charitable organization providing services to all military veterans in Martin County, Florida. Members of 13 local organizations, including Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and AMVETS posts, are members of the Veterans Council. All members serve on a voluntary basis so 100% of the proceeds received by the organization go to helping Martin County veterans.



**In Service to America**

## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1041-MARTIN COUNTY

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1041, Martin County, is comprised of 100% active duty Veterans of the Vietnam era. Almost all are combat veterans and many have disabilities of one form or another from their combat duty. However, we consider ourselves "The Lucky ones". Our mission is to bring honor, respect, and aid to veterans of all eras. We have no payroll, we pay no rent, we give of ourselves to aid other veterans, and nearly 100% of the money we raise goes to fulfill this mission in the local community.

Below are some of the projects we are currently working on or have planned:

**Veterans Homeless Prevention Rapid Response Fund:**  
A fund of money that can be taped into in a matter of hours to prevent eviction of veterans and their families giving them time to work out a more long term solution and by working with the Martin County Office of Veterans Services.

**Long Term Housing for Paralyzed Veterans:**  
Working with other agencies we hope to remodel single family homes so they are suited for the special needs of physically handicapped veterans.

### **Memorial Brick Markers:**

Working with the City of Stuart to relocate existing Memorial Brick Markers and provide for new Memorial Brick Markers as part of the remodeled Veterans Memorial Park in The City of Stuart we are expanding the number of memorial brick pavers and providing a lasting tribute to those that have served and sacrificed for their country. If you wish to purchase a brick paver to honor and remember a veteran please visit our website to download an application at <http://www.vva1041.org>.

## **Support Florida's Veterans and Our Mission by Supporting the Walk of Honor**

The Florida Veterans Foundation's main mission is to provide emergency assistance to Florida veterans and their families who are having financial difficulties which cannot be resolved by the veteran or other veteran service organizations. Most of these situations will develop into a catastrophic situation such as homelessness, if the situation is not solved promptly. Many cases that the Foundation handles involves Service Connected Disabled Veterans. Read more about our emergency assistance program go to <http://www.floridaveteransfoundation.org>. After receiving a bona-fide application for assistance from a veteran, the Foundation responds to the emergency within 24 to 48 hours with a solution as warranted by the facts of the situation. Last year, the Foundation expended well over \$200,000.00 helping Florida's veterans and their families, and assisted over 700 Florida Veterans by providing financial support to those who fit Foundation guidelines, or by providing information on veteran resources such as; available benefits for disability claims, benefits to widows, education resources, housing, etc. Because of the vast amount of services we provide, the Foundation needs your help. You can help support our efforts to Serve, Support and Advocate for our Florida Veterans by donating, volunteering or by purchasing a brick to honor a loved one. Please help us make a difference in our Florida heroes' lives.

The Florida Veterans Walk of Honor will accommodate 25,000 engraved bricks. There are presently 1.5 million veterans residing in the State of Florida. Your engraved brick will be placed on a first come, first serve basis. Therefore, the first 25,000 engraved bricks will be the ones placed in the Florida Veterans Walk of Honor at our State Capitol. *On November 12, 2014*, Governor Scott placed the first memorialized engraved brick into the Florida Veterans Walk of Honor. The Veterans Walk of Honor measures 12 feet wide by 500 feet long, and connects both the old and new Capitol buildings, the House and Senate Buildings and the Florida Veterans Memorial. The heart of the Veterans Walk of Honor will consist of engraved bricks which are being offered to veterans, families and friends of veterans. The proceeds from the sale of the engraved bricks will go to the Florida Veterans Foundation, the Direct Support organization to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs to help further the Foundation's mission to Serve, Support and Advocate for our Florida Veterans. To order your brick to go <http://www.floridaveteransfoundation.org>.

The Florida Veterans Foundation is composed of all volunteers, with the exception of one (1) Executive Assistant to the volunteer Chairman. The majority of the Foundation Directors are retired military disabled veterans who volunteer their time to provide aid and assistance to our Florida Veterans who are less fortunate than themselves. Most of our Directors work more than 48 hours per week on the Foundation's mission.

We urge you to help the Foundation get the word out to all of our brave Veterans and military personnel who have, and still are, putting their lives on the line each and every day to protect our citizens. These brave men and women signed a blank check, up to and including their lives. Many Florida veterans that we assist have debilitating injuries, have PTSD or other service related injuries, with some who are having difficulties re-integrating back into society. It is the Foundation's mission to ensure that none of our Florida Veterans are left behind or forgotten. We need your help.

If our office can answer any questions on the Walk of Honor program, please call (850) 488-4181 or email [ridleyr@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:ridleyr@fdva.state.fl.us)

## **Women's Memorial Foundation seeks veterans to register**

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial here allows women to record their role in the nation's heritage.

Dedicated in 1997, the memorial is the only national memorial honoring women who have served in our nation's defense in all eras and in all services. It is located next to Arlington National Cemetery. According to the memorial's website, 2.5 million women have served in defense of the nation since the beginning more than 230 years ago; however, only 250,000 of these women are registered with the memorial.

Registration is not automatic. Service women, past or present, must register themselves. People can also register women they know of who served. Memorial officials ask women to share their stories and encourage other service women to do the same.

Registration is free; however, people may make a donation. Visit [www.womensmemorial.org](http://www.womensmemorial.org) and click on "Membership" to register. To register by mail, contact the memorial staff at 703-533-1155 or 800-222-2294 to request a registration form, or write: Women in Military Service for American Memorial Foundation, Dept. 560, Washington, DC, 20042-560.

Groundbreaking for the memorial took place June 22, 1995. Total cost of building the memorial was \$22 million. In building the memorial, support came from federal grants; proceeds from the sales of commemorative silver dollars; and corporate, organization and individual donations.



# VETERANS HEALTH ISSUES AND COMPENSATION

## *Hospital Care and Medical Services for Camp Lejeune Veterans and Payment or Reimbursement for Certain Medical Expenses for Camp Lejeune Family Members*

### **Summary:**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to providing the best care for Veterans and families related to Camp Lejeune historical drinking water contamination as required by law. VA is announcing the publication of two regulations: one providing health care for Camp Lejeune Veterans and the other reimbursing for health care expenses of their family members potentially affected by contaminated drinking water at U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The regulations implement provisions of the "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012."

The first regulation, entitled *Hospital Care and Medical Services for Camp Lejeune Veterans (AO78)*, will take effect immediately. The second -- *Payment or Reimbursement for Certain Medical Expenses for Camp Lejeune Family Members (AO79)* -- will take effect 30 days after publication.

The published regulations now allow VA to reimburse eligible Camp Lejeune family members for out-of-pocket health care costs related to any of the 15 covered medical conditions listed in the 2012 Act. Under that law, VA can reimburse costs from March 26, 2013, onwards. Family members can start applying 30 days after the regulation publication date. For more information about VA's Camp Lejeune program, including eligibility and how to apply, visit <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/> or call **1-877-222-8387**.

Since the passage of "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012", VA has enrolled and provided health care to those Veterans who served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987.

### **Background:**

President Obama signed the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 into law on Monday, August 6, 2012. In compliance with the law, VA provides health care to Veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina between 1957 and 1987 and meeting certain criteria. In late 2014, VA will begin reimbursement of health care expenses to their affected family members.

From 1957 to 1987, people living or working at Camp Lejeune were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with chemicals known as volatile compounds, including industrial solvents and benzene from fuels. The law provides that Veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 will be eligible to receive health care through VA, and exposed family members will be reimbursed for health care costs, for the following medical conditions:

1. Esophageal cancer;
2. Lung cancer;

3. Breast cancer;
4. Bladder cancer;
5. Kidney cancer;
6. Leukemia;
7. Multiple myeloma;
8. Myelodysplastic syndromes,
9. Renal toxicity;
10. Hepatitis steatosis;
11. Female infertility;
12. Miscarriage;
13. Scleroderma;
14. Neurobehavioral effects; and
15. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

For family members, VA will be the last payer and will provide reimbursement after all other health insurance coverage and reimbursement is received, as required by law.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **Q: Who is eligible for the Camp Lejeune program?**

**A:** Veterans may be eligible for Camp Lejeune coverage if they meet the following criteria:

- Served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for no less than 30 days between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987
- Meet all the qualifications for VA benefits, including meeting the VA definition of "Veteran," and receiving a discharge other than dishonorable

Additional qualifications can be determined by completing the 10-10EZ form and enrolling in VA benefits.

Family members may be eligible for the program if they resided on Camp Lejeune as a dependent of an Active Duty Servicemember, or were in utero, for no less than 30 days between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987 and have one of the illnesses or conditions listed in the law. VA may reimburse costs associated with hospital care and medical services, as the last payer, for the eligible family members for the 15 illnesses or conditions. Once those family members have submitted claims to their insurance companies, they can apply to VA for reimbursement of the remaining balance of charges and fees connected to the qualifying illnesses.

#### **Q: How do Veterans and family members apply for the Camp Lejeune program?**

**A: For Veterans:** Veterans seeking to enroll in VA health benefits can enroll online at [www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply) or at their local VA Health facility ([www.va.gov/directory](http://www.va.gov/directory)). Veterans seeking more information about VA's Camp Lejeune Program or to apply via phone can call **1-877-222-VETS (8387)**.

Veterans should locate relevant documentation to show proof of Camp Lejeune residency of not less than 30 days (e.g., copies of orders, base housing records, medical or school records, etc.). This information will be utilized by the Veteran Health Administration to validate eligibility for care under this authority.

**For family members:** Once the family member regulation is effective (30 days after it is published), interested family members will be able to apply online. Submitted applications and supporting documentation will be reviewed to determine family member eligibility for the program.

Once deemed eligible for the program, family members who have received care for one of the 15 Camp Lejeune conditions since March 26, 2013, can submit a claim for reimbursement. Family members should keep receipts for medical expenses related to the covered illnesses/conditions. Because the Camp Lejeune law only reimburses expenses, as the payer of last resort, related to the 15 conditions, family members should not change their existing health insurance.

## New Added AO Presumptive Illnesses

Family members who have questions regarding applying for Camp Lejeune Family Member Program benefits, claims payment, appeals, or other related matters should call toll-free at **1-866-372-1144** between the hours of 7 to 4:30pm CST.

### **Q: Is the reimbursement for care retroactive?**

**A:** No, reimbursement is only from the point in time the Veteran enrolls in VA, if after 8/6/12 or reimbursement of VA copayments back to 8/6/12, if already enrolled and identified as a Camp Lejeune member within 2 years of publication of the rule. VA began providing Veteran care for Camp Lejeune on 8/6/12, following the passage of "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012".

### **Q: Does this law provide Veterans with disability compensation?**

**A:** No. This law allows Camp Lejeune Veterans to enroll in VA health care. It does not provide service connection and compensation.

Veterans who believe they have an injury/illness related to their military service may file a claim for disability (adjudication) for their condition at their Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office. A list of those offices by state can be found here: <http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/division.asp?dnum=3&isFlash=0>

VA's online website for electronic claim submission: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits>

## AGENT ORANGE PRESUMPTIVES

Most of us are familiar with this information, however, due to its importance, I believe it needs to be disseminated once again:

*Particularly Vietnam veterans, but also other veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War are presumptively service-connected for several illnesses known to be caused by AO exposure.*

*Veterans who served in Vietnam which includes in land waterways and in the Korean demilitarized zone during the Vietnam era are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange.*

*What presumption means in practical terms is that veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and to have a "presumed" illness don't have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This was designed to speed up the process of getting veterans with particular illnesses that are listed below to be found service-connected for these conditions. It is known that over 100,000 veterans were exposed to herbicides while serving in Vietnam and other areas.*

### **List of Diseases for Agent Orange Presumption**

Illnesses or diseases recognized under the VA's presumption rule as being caused by exposure to herbicides during the Vietnam War originally included: AL Amyloidosis, Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy, Chloracne or other Acneform Disease consistent with Chloracne, Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, (now being expanded), Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2), Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Porphyria Cutanea Tarda, Prostate Cancer, Respiratory Cancers (cancers of the lung, bronchus, larynx, or trachea) and Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma).

A regulation change had added three new illnesses found to be related to Agent Orange and other herbicide exposures. The three new illnesses that have been added to the list above are B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson's disease; and ischemic heart disease. The connection between AO exposure and these conditions was determined by an independent study by the Institute of Medicine. As more studies are done on the connection between Agent Orange exposure and illnesses there is always the possibility that additional medical conditions will be added to the list of AO presumptive diseases. If you are a veteran who served in Vietnam or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone during Vietnam and you suffer from ischemic heart disease, B cell leukemia, Parkinson's, AL Amyloidosis, Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy, Chloracne or other Acneform Disease consistent with Chloracne, Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2), Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Porphyria Cutanea Tarda, Prostate Cancer, Respiratory Cancers (cancers of the lung, bronchus, larynx, or trachea) and Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma) **and you were denied in the past you need to reopen your claim.**

## VA Compensation and Gulf War Veterans

Gulf War Veterans has their own set of issues to address with the VA – Gulf War Syndrome was the predominate issue these veterans as well as TBI.

All military veterans that served in the South West Asia theater during the Gulf War from 1990 to present are eligible for the Gulf War Registry examination. This includes those who served in Iraq, United Arab Emirates, the mutual zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, waters of the Persian Gulf, Arabian sea and Red Sea. These examinations include blood-work urinalysis chest x-rays and EKGs. This exam is not required for VA benefits or compensation. The results of this examination is sent to the veteran and are to be placed into the veteran's medical record.

### **Gulf War Syndrome or Undiagnosed Illness**

Certain medical conditions are automatically recognized for service connection for Gulf War Veterans. Gulf War veterans with certain chronic disabilities resulting from illnesses that VA could not diagnose that appeared during active duty in the Gulf War or within a specified time period after Gulf War service, which led to a degree disability of 10% or more. The VA recognizes three conditions as presumptively recognized for service connection they are fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome and irritable bowel syndrome also called IBS. If you are a veteran who has been diagnosed with one of these conditions, you should apply for VA compensation. If you have been denied service connection for these conditions previously then you should reapply for VA disability compensation because these three conditions were recognized by public Law 107-103 in 2001. Keep in mind these are not the only three conditions in which you can be found service-connected under the presumptive law for Gulf War veterans. You can be found service-connected for other undiagnosed illnesses that either appeared during your active duty in the Gulf War or within a specified time period after Gulf War service as long as it led to a degree of disability of 10% or more. This law refers to what is commonly called Gulf War Syndrome.

## PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

According to "Gulf War and health: Volume 6 physiologic, psychological, and psychosocial effects of deployment-related stress," a report from the Institute of Medicine. A copy of this report can be found at [www.nap.edu](http://www.nap.edu). Those who served in war have an increased chance of suicide, accidental death, and alcohol abuse after leaving the war zone. There is also an increased rate of marital and family conflicts. This same report noted stresses from SCUD missile and artillery attack, combat, contact with POWs, witnessing dead animals and people, separation from family, combat related injuries, length of deployment, fear of chemical weapon attack, and sexual assaults. The report was far from definitive on many issues, however, it was clear that the veterans who were in the war zones reported more medical conditions and worse health than those veterans who were not in war zones. It was also expressed in the report that veterans of the 1991 Gulf War and other war veterans may have an increase chance of developing psychiatric disorders such as PTSD, depression and anxiety.

Gulf War veterans who suffer from symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, memory, and, balance problems, ringing in the ears, irritability, sleep problems, feeling numb, startling easily, feeling on guard constantly, or having nightmares should check with their medical provider for the possibility of having PTSD or traumatic brain injury (TBI). TBI can be caused by injury to the head such as IED blast, other explosive blast, or being hit in the head. If you are diagnosed with TBI or PTSD, you should file a claim with the VA.

## VA Compensation for Depleted Uranium

The U.S. military uses tank armor and some bullets made with depleted uranium (DU) to penetrate enemy armored vehicles, and began using DU on a large scale during the Gulf War.

The process of manufacturing enriched uranium from natural uranium used in nuclear reactors or weapons leaves "depleted" uranium. DU has 40 percent less radioactivity, but the same chemical toxicity as natural uranium.

If you think you were exposed to depleted uranium during your service, talk to your local VA Environmental Health Coordinator. Ask to be screened for depleted uranium exposure, and ask about the Depleted Uranium Follow-up Program.

### How Veterans may have been exposed

When a projectile made with DU penetrates a vehicle, small pieces of DU can scatter and become embedded in muscle and soft tissue. In addition to DU in wounds, Servicemembers exposed to DU in struck vehicles may inhale or swallow small airborne DU particles.

Some Gulf War, Bosnia, Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and Operation New Dawn (OND) Veterans who may have been exposed to DU are those who were: on, in or near vehicles hit with friendly fire; entering or near burning vehicles; near fires involving DU munitions; or salvaging damaged vehicles.

## Health problems associated with depleted uranium

DU is a potential health hazard if it enters the body, such as through embedded fragments, contaminated wounds, and inhalation or ingestion. Simply riding in a vehicle with DU weapons or DU shielding will not expose a Servicemember to significant amounts of DU or external radiation.

The potential for health effects from internal exposure is related to the amount of DU that enters a person's body. If DU enters the body, it may remain in the body. Studies show high doses may especially affect the kidneys.

So far no health problems associated with DU exposure have been found in Veterans exposed to DU. Researchers and clinicians continue to monitor the health of these Veterans. Go to the Department of Defense's Depleted Uranium (DU) Library to learn about results of medical and scientific research and other DU topics.

### Health concerns?

If you are concerned about depleted uranium exposure during service, talk to your health care provider or local VA Environmental Health Coordinator.

Veterans who served in the Gulf War, Bosnia, OEF, OIF, or OND may be eligible for the Depleted Uranium Follow-up Program at the Baltimore VA Medical Center, a program to screen and monitor health problems associated with depleted uranium exposure.

VA offers a variety of health care benefits to eligible Veterans. Not enrolled in the VA health care system? Find out if you qualify for VA health care.

### Compensation benefits for health problems

Veterans may file a claim for disability compensation for health problems they believe are related to exposure to depleted uranium during service. VA decides these claims on a case-by-case basis. File a claim online or see a service officer.

Learn more about VA benefits. See more at: [http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/depleted\\_uranium/#sthash.DKH9udtZ.dpuf](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/depleted_uranium/#sthash.DKH9udtZ.dpuf)

**An issue here is that most do in fact believe that the VA is denying claims of DU illnesses in the same manner that AQ was denied to the Vietnam Vets – we are all in this together. It is our responsibility to make sure that the same things does not happen to the next generation of Veterans – educate them, guide them and assist them. Be there for them when no one was there for us.**

## Risk Patterns Identified That Make People More Vulnerable To PTSD

Researchers have built a new computational tool that identifies 800 different ways people are at increased risk for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), permitting for the first time a personalized prediction guide. Results from the study out of NYU Langone Medical Center are published online March 16 in the journal BMC Psychiatry.

"Our study shows that high-risk individuals who have experienced a traumatic event can be identified less than two weeks after they

are first seen in the emergency department,” says Arie Y. Shalev, MD, the Barbara Wilson Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at NYU Langone and a co-director of NYU’s Steven and Alexandra Cohen Veterans Center. “Until now, we have not had a tool – in this case a computational algorithm — that can weigh the many different ways in which trauma occurs to individuals and provides a personalized risk estimate.”

Presently, all that clinicians have had to work with are computation methods capable of calculating the average risk for entire groups of survivors — and those have proven to be insufficient as an individual risk prediction tool. The new algorithm applied risk prediction tools currently used to predict the growth of cancer, to predicting PTSD.

The study set out to uncover interchangeable, maximally predictive sets of early risk indicators and build a Target Information Equivalence Algorithm, previously developed at the NYU Center for Health Bioinformatics for molecular and cancer research. The algorithm showed that, when applied to data collected within ten days of a traumatic event, it can more accurately predict who is likely to develop PTSD despite the many ways in which traumatic events occur. Data crunched into the algorithm includes variables on type of event, early symptoms, and emergency department findings.

“Until recently, we mainly used early symptoms to predict PTSD, and it had its drawbacks,” Dr. Shalev. “This study extends our ability to predict effectively. For example, it shows that features like the occurrence of head trauma, duration of stay in the emergency department, or survivors’ expressing a need for help, can be integrated into a predictive tool and improve the prediction.”

Devising a strong predictive model also is imperative for tailoring prevention efforts for people at risk for developing PTSD, Dr. Shalev adds.

Dr. Shalev’s latest study builds on data originally gathered from the Jerusalem Trauma Outreach and Prevention Study, which he and colleagues conducted at Hadassah Hospital in Israel and which previously was published in Archives of General Psychiatry. That study concluded that two forms of cognitive behavioral therapy, prolonged exposure and cognitive therapy, were equally effective in preventing PTSD in recent survivors.

Dr. Shalev was careful to stress that this latest publication is a “proof of concept” paper. For robust prediction across conditions, he says, the identified algorithm needs to be used to gather knowledge gained in traumatic events experienced by other patient populations and traumatic events – beyond those analyzed from the earlier study.

To build a generalized predictive model, the research team, in collaboration with researchers from Columbia and Harvard University, has already received datasets from 19 other centers worldwide in an NIMH-funded study designed to produce a comprehensive predictive algorithm.

“In the future, we hope that we will be better able to tailor treatment approaches based on more personalized risk assessment,” Dr. Shalev says. “PTSD exacts a heavy toll on affected individuals and society.”

According to large epidemiological studies in the US and through the World Health Organization, the majority of living adults will experience at least one traumatic event during their lifetime, and five to ten percent of those exposed to traumatic events may develop PTSD.

Dr. Shalev’s coauthors from the NYU School of Medicine are Isaac R. Galtzer-Levy, Alexander Statnikov, and Zhiguo Li. Karen-Inge

Karstoft, at the Danish Veteran Centre, Ringstaed Denmark, led the research.

This work was supported by the US Public Health/National Institute of Mental Health research grants #R01MH071651 and R34MH102449.

SOURCE NYU Langone Medical Center

## **For those of you who log on to the DPMO Website for POW/MIA information:**

The new link <http://www.dpaa.mil/Home.aspx> will take you to the NEW Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency’s website.

The DPMO site is still available for viewing but it will no longer be updated.

Please share this information with your members, veteran friends and fellow advocates.

### **CIVILIAN FRIENDS VS VET FRIENDS**

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** *Get upset if you're too busy to talk to them for a week.*

**MILITARY FRIENDS:** *Are glad to see you after years, and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having last time you met.*

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** *Never ask for food.*

**MILITARY FRIENDS:** *Are the reason you have no food.*

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** *Call your parents Mr. And Mrs.*

**MILITARY FRIENDS:** *Call your parents mom and dad.*

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** *Bail you out of jail and tell you what you did was wrong.*

**MILITARY FRIENDS:** *Would be sitting next to you saying, "Damn...we screwed up...but man, that was fun!"*

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** *Have never seen you cry.*

**MILITARY FRIENDS:** *Cry with you.*

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** *Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back.*

**MILITARY FRIENDS:** *Keep your stuff so long they forget it's yours.*

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** *Know a few things about you.*

**MILITARY FRIENDS:** *Could write a book with direct quotes from you.*

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** *Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing.*

**MILITARY FRIENDS:** *Will kick the whole crowd's ass that left you behind.*

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** *Would knock on your door.*

**MILITARY FRIENDS:** *Walk right in and say, "I'm home!"*

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** *Are for a while.*

**MILITARY FRIENDS:** *Are for life.*

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have shared a few experiences...

MILITARY FRIENDS: Have shared a lifetime of experiences  
no Civilian could ever dream of...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will take your drink away when they  
think you've had enough.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Will look at you stumbling all over the  
place and say, "You better drink the rest  
of that, you know we don't waste...that's  
alcohol abuse!!" Then carry you home  
safely and put you to bed...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will talk crap to the person who talks  
crap about you.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Will kick the crap out of the person who  
talks crap about you.

**Are you involved with an organization  
or know of an organization that sends  
care packages to our troops? If so,  
please contact Al Diaz @  
[Bigalchico@yahoo.com](mailto:Bigalchico@yahoo.com). We would like  
to have this information available to  
share with individuals or organizations  
that may like to make a donation, or  
submit a name of a soldier to receive a  
care package.**

## **INTERESTED IN JOINING THE COALITION?**

There are many benefits to join the Vietnam and All  
Veterans State Coalition. A voice of many is heard above a  
voice of one. The coalition meets quarterly at various  
locations in the State of Florida and we discuss and  
disseminate information pertaining to veterans and their  
benefits. To obtain information regarding joining the  
coalition either as an Organization, or an individual, please

visit our website at [VVOF.ORG](http://VVOF.ORG) coalition either as an  
Organization, or an individual, please visit our website at  
[VVOF.ORG](http://VVOF.ORG)

**If you, or your organization is already a member of the  
coalition, and there has been a change in officers,  
please immediately advise the coalition of these  
changes, including mailing addresses, e-mail  
addresses and telephone numbers so we may keep you  
up-to-date with all pertinent information**

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in our efforts to advance understanding of:  
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and scientific issues, etc.**

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All inquiries, questions or comments may be  
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opinion of the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida  
State Coalition or its member organizations.  
Updated September 17, 2006

# THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL



## About Our Wall

Our Wall is a 3/5 scale of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC, it stands six feet tall at the apex and covers almost 300 feet from end to end. The Memorial Wall is sponsored by The Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard (VVB). Work to build our Wall was started in April of 2005. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall was completed and first shown to the public April 24, 2006.

This Traveling Memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War. It was made for the purpose of helping heal and rekindle friendships. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall also allows people the opportunity to visit loved ones in their home town, who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington.

The names on The Wall were painstakingly researched from five different data bases and cross-referenced with the Department of Informational and Organizational Reports (DIOR) in Washington, DC, and is one of the most correct and up-to-date traveling wall in the country.

Feel free to take a look at our website [www.travelingwall.us](http://www.travelingwall.us), read about what we have to offer. Please contact us with any questions you might have in regards to The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall coming to your town.

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