



Roger That!

The Official Publication of Rolling Thunder®, Illinois Ch 2

Volume 24, Issue 4



OUR MISSION: The major function of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is to publicize the POW-MIA issue: To educate the public that many American Prisoners of War were left behind after all previous wars and to help correct the past and to protect future Veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners of War-Missing In Action. We are also committed to helping American Veterans from all wars.

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is a non-profit organization and everyone donates her time because they believe in the POW/MIA Issue.

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

- 9 Columbus Day
- 13 U.S. Navy Birthday
- 26 Day of the Deployed
- 27 Navy Day

NOVEMBER

- 1-5 National Veterans Small Business Week
- 5 End of Daylight Savings Time
- 10 Marine Corps Birthday
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 11 Armistice Remembrance Day
- 28 Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER

- 1 Civil Air Patrol (USAF) Auxiliary Birthday
- 3 Giving Tuesday
- 7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 25—January 2 Hannukkah
- 13 U.S. National Guard Birthday
- 18 National Wreaths Across America
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26—January 1 Kwanzaa
- 31 New Year's Eve

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DPAA Updates

Remaining Numbers to Date

2 October, 2024

WWII
72,003

Korean War
7,453

Vietnam War
1,574

Cold War
126

Gulf Wars
5

El Dorado Canyon
1

41,000 of these missing are presumed lost at sea due to ship losses or aircraft water losses.

This information is updated every Friday on the DPAA website. Check DPAA.Mil for the most current data.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Third Time's the Charm!....

As I start my third year as president, I want to thank our members for putting their trust in me as well as the leadership of our officers and board of directors in fulfilling our mission. We work to educate the public that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all previous wars and to help correct the past and to protect future veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners of War – Missing in Action. We are also committed to helping American veterans of all wars.

This mission statement is recited at all our monthly membership meetings, but what exactly does it mean? For our chapter it means to professionally organize and participate in the Dignified Transfer of Remains for the recently identified POW-MIA and to properly escort the remains to their final resting place giving closure to the family. In doing so, these past two years we have come together as a cohesive, professional group proudly flagging up the American flag, the POW-MIA and all the service flags to escort the remains of our fallen heroes to their final resting place. By the show of this respect for our fallen heroes, it brings awareness to the community of the POW-MIA issue. As has been said many times, our paycheck is seeing men, women and children lining the road waving flags and saluting the remains as it passes by.

This year I would like to expand upon our mission and to place an emphasis on helping our veterans from all wars. This would include our visits to Lovell Health Care Center and the needs of those veterans and the possible support of veterans who have fallen on hard times financially. I would recommend the use of National Rolling Thunder Charities, a 501 © 3, not-for-profit corporation to fund this effort. We have been encouraged by National to promote this effort. All donations to National Rolling Thunder Charities are tax deductible. For our chapter this would involve a major commitment of our members to formulate a program with guidelines to govern the solicitation of funds from individuals and businesses who support veteran causes. We would use our energy to identify the types of needs requested by the veterans and to match that need with funding. It could be medical, housing, utilities, and other daily needs. No funds would be distributed directly to the individual veteran. We need to go slowly in developing this program to ensure it's validity and success, but we need to take the first step in setting it up.

Finally, in concluding this past year, I would like to thank the officers, directors and committee chairs for a job well done. It was a busy year with a lot of moving parts including a chapter mission to Augsburg, Germany. I look forward to another successful year of activities and the involvement of all our members, especially our new members in fulfilling our mission. Remember we will never forget!



Ted
Makarewicz,
President

Rolling
Thunder IL
Ch 2



Whenever we
Gather,
We will
Honor
and
Remember
Gratefully!



V.P.'s Vision

Rain, Rain, Go Away... Come Again Another Day!

By: Tony Yarbrough



That was the title of last year's V.P.'s Vision too! Our day didn't turn out as planned. We were hoping for a large number of riders, but the weather literally 'did a number' on our turnout. That and Greg Smith wasn't able to join due to a tire issue on his way. So, we had some setbacks.. But, I'd have to say that I was in very good company that day. Our Chapter turnout was good and all of the details that would make this ride memorable for many were in place. So, I'm going to share with you the things that DID create memories for those in attendance.

- * We had a tent!
- * We had coffee and bagels
- * We had Ken List supporting us in the rain!
- * We had many of our soggy members laughing and talking (but not dancing) in the rain!
- * We had enough Lake County and McHenry County Officers... Just about enough for one squad per rider
- * We had the support of the VA and Woodstock Harley
- * We had great pizza with friends



And we had a raffle with the following winners!

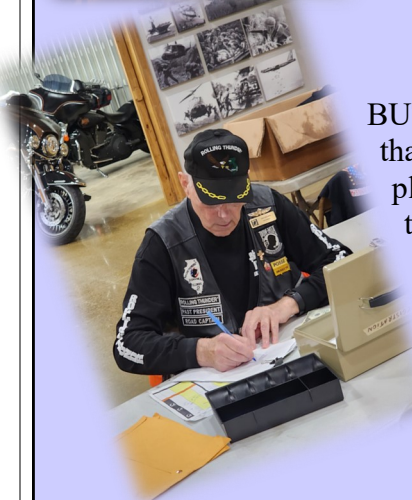
Winners;

- 3 – Katherine Lasik \$500
- 2 – Jose Gorda \$1,000
- 1 – Brian Lewis \$2000



BUT the most important thing that we had was our POW/MIA heroes in the spotlight! I believe they would be pleased to see what we did in their Honor! They fought for us, so we need to continue to fight for their return. We have a lot more work to do and a new Board to get that work in place.

Thank you to all who participated and supported this event! It took all of us to make this day work! Maybe next year, we will have sunshine working for us too!



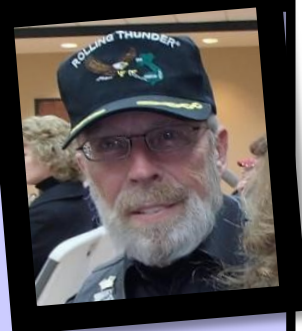
Chairman of the Board Wayne “Traveler” Kirkpatrick

As our calendar approaches the end of 2024, we have conducted more events than most chapters throughout our Nation. We have also had to decline more events than any other chapter due to schedule conflicts, resources and events that are not consistent with the Rolling Thunder Constitution.

Nonetheless, every one of you has given your best in supporting every mission when and where you can. That's what makes Chapter 2 so successful!

We have about 3 months remaining this year to continue stacking up missions in our “Win” column.

Our annual Stand To is approaching and our reputation for this event is growing. We have already had two groups request seating. More to follow for this event however, block your calendar for Saturday, 9 November.



As this Newsletter is released, we should have already attended the semi-annual James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center's Veteran Memorial service for our Veteran brothers and sisters who have recently passed away. This event is by invitation from the Palliative Care unit. To stand with the families of the fallen during this ceremony is something that we should all embrace. To be invited is something that we should all be proud of.



We are fortunate and honored to participate in, and support, the Repatriation of WWII MIA US Army PFC Harry Jerele of Berkeley, IL with the Dignified Transfer on 1 Oct and the funeral on 4 Oct. This will be our first one where Chapter 1 has taken the full lead and we are supporting. It is no less important than the previous eighteen Repatriations that we have completed.

portant than the previous eighteen Repatriations that we have completed.



Also in November, a local Scout troop in Elgin has requested our Table Ceremony for Monday evening on Veterans Day, 11 November at an American Legion Hall in Elgin. We are honored to work with America's young men and women and to have the opportunity to demonstrate to them our country's POW/MIA history through our POW/MIA Remembrance Table Ceremony.

Finally, I want to highlight one of the traits that makes us so good at what we do. At our recent Thunder Run and our VA Table ceremony, it looked like set up and performance were rehearsed, rehearsed, and rehearsed. Everyone on site pitched in and helped with something. No one stood around asking “What should I do?”. With everyone working as a team, all of our missions become routine and look so professional. Our uniform, our experience and our ability to unify as a team to get things done clearly contribute to that success. I would offer that all of us are very proud to work with each other every time we have a mission. I know that I am thankful and proud, to work with all of you!

Always strive to beproud to serve....





Fisher House Foundation: Providing Comfort Homes for Military and Veteran Families

The Fisher

Submitted By: Traveler



Your Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airman has been on deployment and, expected

home in one month. Suddenly, there's a knock on your door and two uniformed military personnel, who just got out of a military staff car, are standing on your porch. Adrenalin rushes through your body and your heart rate nearly doubles.

You answer the door and are formally told that your loved one has been wounded and is being transported to Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio, TX. Your military contact, the Casualty Assistance Officer offers you his condolences, provides you with his contact information and encourages you to stay in touch with him. He will inform you of your loved one's date / time of arrival at BAMC when he receives it.

Immediately, you attempt to contact your loved one via cell, text, email to no avail. You contact the wife of his unit commander who leads the unit's wives group created to assist spouses in stressful times. She has heard nothing yet but will check.

What next? Inform the kids, notify his family, coordinate time off from work, find someone to care for your children, find out how to get to BAMC, do you fly or drive, try to find a place to stay in San Antonio, where do you find money to pay for it all, and....your head is swimming with grief and confusion. (This actually happened to one of our members)

Within 24 hours, the unit commander's wife calls to inform you that she has coordinated an airline flight to San Antonio and has a place for you to stay, indefinitely, all paid for by the Fisher House Foundation. WOW!!!!

Until recently, the Next of Kin of a wounded service person or sick veteran hospitalized in our area, had to live in a hotel and bear the costs of travel, food, child care, etc, all while taking off of work. Not any more thanks to the Fisher House Foundation.

House program was established in 1990 by Zachary Fisher and Elizabeth Fisher in response to the recognized need for housing for military families while their loved ones were hospitalized. In 1991, the first Fisher House was inaugurated at the National Naval Medical Center (now Walter Reed Military Medical Center) in Bethesda, Maryland, with the presence of

President George Bush Sr. and Mrs. Bush during the dedication ceremony.

The North Chicago Fisher

House will be the 100th Fisher House operating in the United States and Europe. Once finished, up to 1,400 families will be able stay in a Fisher House across the country and overseas on any given night.

The North Chicago Fisher House will allow up to 16 Veteran and military families to stay free of charge, serving families traveling to the health care center for medical care. It will offer more than 5,800 nights of lodging each year, potentially saving families more than \$1.1 million annually.

Construction of the 100th Fisher House began in April 2024 at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center located in North Chicago, Illinois.

Unlike other Fisher Houses built for the VA or a particular military service, this will be the first-of-its-kind home built for the partnership between the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense (DoD), integrating all medical care into a federal healthcare facility with a single combined mission.

Fisher House Foundation, Inc. is an international nonprofit that works alongside the Veterans Health Administration to provide complimentary quality of life services for active military members, veterans, and their families.

(Continued on page 6)





Roger That!



Fisher House, con-

Other Quality of Life programs offered by the foundation include the Hero Miles and Hotels for Heroes programs, ongoing assistance to Fisher Houses, scholarships, support for continuing rehabilitation initiatives, and individual assistance to members of the military and their families during a crisis.



A Home Away from Home.

Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military and Veteran families can

stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are strategically located at military and VA medical centers around the world, ensuring that families can be close to their loved ones during challenging times. With up to 21 suites in each Fisher House, families enjoy private bedrooms, baths and shared common spaces like kitchens, laundry facilities, dining rooms and living rooms.

Financial relief for families. Since its inception, the Fisher House program has saved military and Veterans' families an estimated \$610 million in out-of-pocket costs for lodging and transportation. This significant financial relief allows families to focus on supporting their loved ones without the added burden of accommodation expenses.

Hero Miles Program. Fisher House Foundation operates the Hero Miles program, which uses donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members. This initiative ensures that families can be together during critical recovery periods, regardless of the distance.

Hotels for Heroes. Similarly, the Hotels for Heroes program uses donated hotel points to provide family members with free stays at hotels near medical centers. This program ensures that families have a comfortable place to stay close to their loved ones without any financial strain.

Grant and scholarship programs. Beyond housing, Fisher House Foundation manages the Fisher Service Award, a grant program that supports other charities and scholarship funds for military children, spouses, and children of fallen and disabled Veterans. To date, 15,000 students have received \$27,000,000 in scholarship awards, furthering the Foundation's commitment to supporting military families in various ways.

By the numbers.

- Daily capacity: 1,300 families.
- Families served: More than 500,000 since inception.
- Number of lodging days offered: 12 million+.
- Scholarship awards: 15,000 students receiving \$27,000,000.
- Hero Miles airline tickets provided: Over 70,000, worth nearly \$105 million.



Staying at a Fisher House. If you or someone you love is receiving care at a VA or military medical center, check the list of current Fisher Houses to see if there is a location that can help. The criteria to stay are established locally by the hospital or installation command, so please contact the location with any questions. There is never a charge to stay at a Fisher House.

A community of support. Fisher Houses are designed to foster a sense of community while providing private respite for families. Families can prepare their favorite meals in the gourmet kitchen before enjoying a good night's sleep in their private suite. The common areas, such as the dining room, family room and outdoor patio, offer spaces for families to connect and support each other.

Private suite amenities

- Beds accommodating family needs (multiple twins, full, rollaway crib, etc.).
- Private, wheelchair-accessible bathroom with ample counter space.
- Towels and high-quality bedding provided.
- Large closet with hangers.
- TV and internet access.

Common areas

- Dining room.
- Gourmet kitchen with a coffee maker, pots, pans, utensils, pantry compartments, and state-of-the-art refrigerators.
- Family room with large TV and seating.
- Living room with seating and a library.
- Laundry room with multiple washers and dryers.
- Outdoor patio.

We have not, yet, received a completion date or a date of a grand opening but, once we do, be assured that Rolling Thunder, Chapter 2, Illinois will be in attendance.

Updates from DPAA on MIAs from Korean War

Submitted by: Traveler



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the Pentagon operation that oversees the recovery and identification of missing troops, hosted its annual government briefing on the Korean War and Cold War on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024, and continuing Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, in Arlington, Va. More than 300 families in attendance represented a fraction of the 7,500 presumed missing from the Korean War. Another approximately 130 represented those missing from the Cold War. (Caitlyn Burchett/Stars and Stripes)

Families came to Arlington in hopes of receiving an update on the disinterment and identification of unknown remains suspected to be their loved ones, though most will never have the answers that they are seeking, said Kelly McKeague, director of the DPAA. “We are at the mercy of geopolitics,” he said. The U.S. worked with North Korea in the 1990s and 2000s to disinter and exchange the remains of unknown troops.

John Byrd, director of scientific analysis for DPAA, estimated 92% of the remains that the agency has received from North Korea have been identified. “The bad news is that these are finite resources,” he said. “As we have success with the remains that we’re disinterring and bringing into the lab, we will eventually successfully get through all of those.” Byrd estimated that will happen in the next several years. “We would love an opportunity to get another unilateral turnover or to see a breakthrough in diplomacy,” he said. The last time that the DPAA had access to North Korea was in 2005. But in 2018, the agency received 55 boxes of remains from North Korea. The DPAA has been unsuccessful in communicating with North Korea since then to coordinate additional exchanges. “Will the majority of the families continue to be disappointed? Absolutely,” McKeague said. But he said, if China is evidence, there is hope.



U.S. soldiers participate in an excavation operation for remains with South Korean troops in South Korea in 2014. (Joel Changhoon Lee/19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command)

In January, China resumed cooperating with the DPAA. There was an archival exchange in May 2024 of remains believed to be from World War II. Now, there is a DPAA team working at an excavation site in Hunan, a province in southern China. Additional sites in Yangon, a Chinese province near the border of North Korea, have been identified as the resting grounds for U.S. Air Force troops lost during the Korean War. McKeague said it is the DPAA’s hope that this “people-to-people” cooperation with China will translate to North Korea. “At the very core of each of us, our humanity is this need to connect and this need to be whole,” McKeague said. “Forty-six countries, to include China, view this in that same light.”

The DPAA will bring online a new DNA sequencing technology later this year that will make it easier to identify chemically damaged remains found in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Previously, the DNA had to be sequenced with maternal samples, but technology like what Ancestry.com uses will allow the DPAA to use paternal samples.

Tim McMahon, director of the Defense Department DNA Operations, said remains at the Punchbowl are so chemically damaged they resemble that of 40,000-year-old Neanderthal bones. McMahon said it has taken 16 years to bring this technology to fruition to be used at an excavation site. Before, the agency was doing three to five samples each month with a 24% success rate. That was increased to 120 samples per month with a 70% success rate. Once the new technology is online and optimized, McMahon said it will likely speed up case results.



US Frustrated Over North Korea Blocking MIA Recovery Efforts

Submitted By: Traveler



The US expressed frustration Wednesday that North Korea is continuing to refuse to allow teams into the reclusive country to recover the remains of American casualties from the Korean War.

“The United States government reaches out often to North Korea on any number of issues, one of which is this particular mission. There has been no response at all, at all levels of the United States government, in their communications with North Korea ... We are at the mercy of geopolitics,” the director of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Kelly McKeague, said Wednesday.

Of the estimated 7,500 US service members still missing from the Korean War, 5,300 are believed to be in North Korea, McKeague said. Roughly 37,000 Americans were killed during the war and 8,000 were missing, according to the Pentagon. The war lasted from June 1950 to July 1953, when the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed.

McKeague told reporters that North Korea has not responded to outreach by the US government since March 2019, roughly a year after it turned over 55 boxes of remains of US troops in July 2018. The rare move was a commitment resulting from a meeting between then-President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un in Singapore. The DPAA is con-

tinuing to work through identification of remains it has received from North Korea, though McKeague acknowledged that it is far from providing answers to all the families whose loved one may still be there.

McKeague added that North Korea's refusal to cooperate stands in stark contrast to China, who since January has continued working with the US to recover remains in the country.

“It's remarkable that we have a DPAA team in China today, despite the bilateral tensions, working to look for answers for World War II families, as well as Korean War families, whose loved ones are missing from those wars that are in China,” McKeague said.

The DPAA's mission in January 2024 was the first team the agency has been allowed in China since the Covid-19 pandemic began. McKeague said that since then, DPAA has done two surveys of World War II sites in the Hunan and Guangxi provinces, which were followed “by an archival exchange that occurred in May.” Because of the success of those efforts, McKeague said a team is currently in China at an excavation site in Hunan, which will be followed up by another survey of four sites for four Air Force losses from the Korean War.

China's cooperation, he said, will “likely provide” answers to families “that they've been lacking.”



Korean War Medals

To read more on the details for the Korean war and to see the Maps that detail POW camps, go to

[DPAA Famweb Korean Conflict Home Page \(crmforce.mil\)](https://www.crmforce.mil/DPAA-Famweb-Korean-Conflict-Home-Page)

There are also ‘Air loss maps’, ‘March Routes and Cemtaries’ and so much more. It is a great resource for families to use as they wait for the return of their Hero!

Memorial in DC is Complete

Submitted by: Traveler



Workers put the finishing touches on the area around sculptor Sabin Howard's "A Soldier's Journey" at the National World War I Memorial in Washington in preparation for its unveiling Friday, Sept. 13, 2024.

The 60-foot-long bronze sculpture consists of 38 figures depicting a battle scene from the Great War. Before its installation, a painting of the sculpture had temporarily adorned the wall.

After eight years in the making, acclaimed master sculptor Sabin Howard's "A Soldier's Journey", was unveiled with the First Illumination ceremony on 13 Sept 2024. It was the final piece to complete the National World War I Memorial in Washington D.C.

The 25-ton, 60-foot-long bronze monument depicts five scenes and 38 larger-than-life-size human figures and tells two narratives: the soldier's personal experience during WWI, and America's journey. The sculpture represents the parallel of each one's development through the conflict.

During the unveiling ceremony, the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" and bugle corps in WWI uniforms performed along with a candle-lighting to exemplify the memorial's permanent illumination.

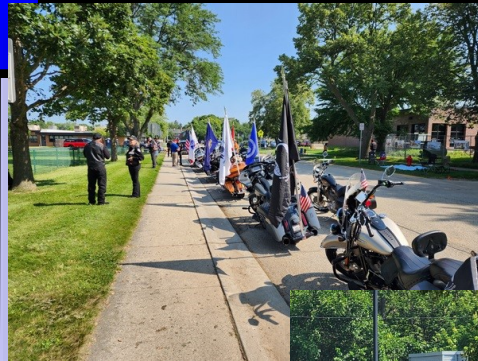
The World War I Centennial Commission (WWICC) and the Doughboy Foundation continued to celebrate the monument's completion and unveiling with a World War I Living History Weekend, Friday through Sunday.

The general public attended in-person at the adjacent Freedom Plaza or joined virtually on the WWICC's website where the live event was streaming. Throughout the weekend, attendees and online viewers learned about the impact of WWI on the United States through historical presentations by WWI reenactors including the Hello Girls.

For those attending in person, there was a chance to view displays of authentic WWI vehicles by the National WWI Mobile Museum. In addition to the festivities, there was live performances by world-renowned musicians led by the American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters Band as well as the Community Bands of Westmoreland County, Pa., and the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.

Algonquin Parade...

Celebrating our Heroes!



After Action Reports!

July 4th, Rolling Meadows Parade!
A great day ... A great Turn-out!
Fun and Education at the same time!



We thank the men and women who work to keep us safe! It was with those people of Rolling Meadows that were able to bring the our Thanks for the 4th of July!



The POW/MIA Remembrance Table at James A. Lovell Veteran's Hospital!



Once Again, Our Rolling Thunder Table Ceremony was a part of Remembering the POW/MIA National Holiday. It is always special to be a part of Honoring our POW/MIA Heroes!

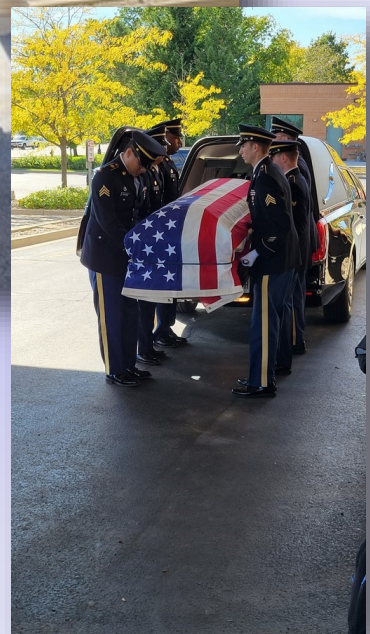


HINES Lumber
Dedicated a
POW/MIA
Chair!

May they find a sense of
gratitude in every day as
they look to this chair and
the sacrifices it represents!

THANK YOU, HINES, for
honoring and
remembering!

Repatriation: PFC JERELE



PFC Jerele will be buried on Friday, 4 October. The Dignified Transfer was completed on Tuesday, 1 October and was attended by Rolling Thunder Chapters 1 and 2.

Another Family now has their Hero back home and can celebrate his life and service with honor and respect! Wayne sent out his full story in an email!

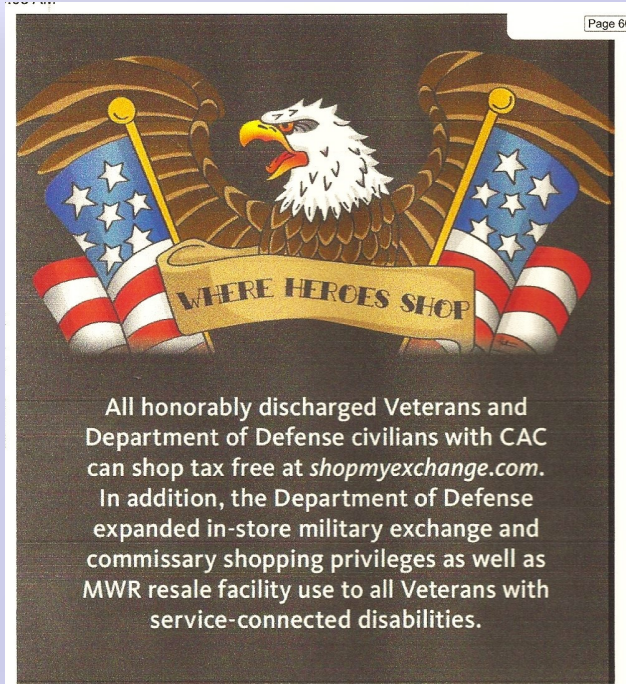
This is the focus of our Mission...



Let's Help the VA to make the Holidays special for our Heroes!

Both Ken List and Trish Stewart have lists of needs for the Veterans that they work with every day. Why don't we begin to gather items on the list and bring them to the October and November Meetings... Ken has a variety of patients with health needs. Anna and Tricia operate the Hospice and Paliative Care Programs. Their needs of these two groups vary... hence the difference in the lists!

Ken List's List	Anna Abraham and Tricia Stewart's List
• Bodywash • Lotion • Hats • Scarves • Gloves • Underware (mainly mens lg/exlg) • Sweat pants or pajama pants • Sweatshirts	• Bodywash • Lotion • Hats • Scarves • Gloves • Wash • Clothes • Poligrip • Denture cleaning tablets



Veteran's Day Deals! Check out the lists of Opportunities to Know How Much You Mean to Your Fellow Americans!

There are many ways to let someone know they are appreciated.... Check out these web-sites to see the food, services and vacations available to those who have served!

[2024 Veterans Day Free Meals and Restaurant Deals and Discounts | Military.com](https://military.com)

[Top 100 Veterans Day Military Deals and Discounts for 2024 \(militarymoney.com\)](https://militarymoney.com)

[Veterans Day Free Meals, Discounts, Sales and Deals](#)





Doc's Corner...

By: Mark Mazurkiewicz

Moving Forward at the VA Information from the VA from Doc!

Doc attends the meetings held at James Lovell VA to bring back the information of the changes and developments happening. So many new opportunities for Veterans and for those who want to assist!



New Genetics Testing!

The PGX or Pharmacogenomic Testing is now available for all veterans!

- ✦ What is Pharmacogenetics? PGx uses information from a person's genes to understand how they respond to medicines. Genes are a part of our DNA that provide instructions on how your body develops and function. Everyone has small differences in their genes. Because of this, people may respond differently to medicines.
- ✦ What are the advantages of having information? It has been shown that knowing about your genes can affect the decisions that are made for medicines—what kind and how much! With this 'Personalized Medicine' can ensure that the effect of the medicines are maximized while the side-effects are minimized!
- ✦ Are there harms from PGx Testing? The risk is low. It is a blood draw so the risks are like the other tests that require blood draws. You may receive an unexpected result identifying a medical problem. And the medicine that is recommended by your PGx test may be more expensive if it is not preferred by the VA.
- ✦ What are the limitation of PGx testing? Genetics only tells us part of the story. Other things like age, overall health, other medicines you take, body size and reactions to other medicines all play a part in decisions that will be made.
- ✦ How do we perform PGx testing? Your provider will discuss and answer your questions about: 1) what the PGx test results may find. 2) what happens to your sample after testing. 3) your privacy. 4) your benefits limitations and risks. 5) The test requires one tube of blood. It can take up to two weeks for your healthcare team to get results and add them to your VA Medical record.
- ✦ YOUR PGx TEST RESULTS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL WITHIN THE BA. It will only be shared with your permission or if there is a court order.
- ✦ Visit the following sites for more information:
 - ◆ National Institute of Health: <https://www.genome.gov/genetics-glossary/Pharmacogenomics>
 - ◆ VA PGx Website: <https://www.cancer.va.gov/phaser.asp>
 - ◆ FHCC Points of Contact:
 - ◆ Nicole C. Watkins—Nicole.watkins@va.gov
 - ◆ Dr. George C. Gettys—George.Gettys@VA.gov



Other Notes from the meeting that we can use to develop events!

- ✦ If you would like to volunteer and haven't been involved recently... You will need to reapply or have your information reactivated. Also you will have to have the first two COVID vaccines.
- ✦ More people are needed for all areas of volunteerism at the hospital. Large needs to help with the DAV van to drive patients and also in the **My Healthy Vet** Program.
- ✦ Donations are needed... See page 11 for opportunities to give!

"To care for them who have borne the battle"

Abe Lincoln.



Military Celebrations for 3rd Quarter

<https://veteran.com/military-calendar-holidays-events-observances/>

October

October = Breast Cancer Awareness Month

- 13 Ms. Veteran America Pageant
- 14 Columbus Day



- 13 U.S. Navy Birthday
- 26 Day of the Deployed
- 27 Navy Day
- 31 Halloween



November

National Veterans & Military Family Month

Warrior Care Month

National Family Caregivers Month

11-15 National Veterans Small Business Week

- 3 End of Daylight Savings Time
- 10 Marine Corps Birthday



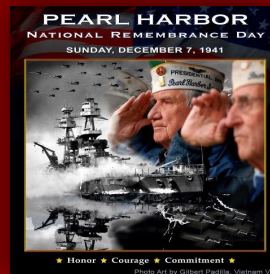
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28 Thanksgiving Day



December

- 1 Civil Air Patrol (USAF) Auxiliary Birthday
- 3 Giving Tuesday!



7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

25 - January 2 Hannukkah



13 U.S. National Guard Birthday

14 National Wreaths Across America

25 Christmas Day

26- January 1 Kwanzaa



1 New Year's Eve



- 1 October Jurgen Lutz
- 8 October John Cummings
- 11 October Bozena Haszlakiewicz
- 16 October Cheri Pierce
- 26 October Jeff Kosuta

- 29 October Nick Bender
- 30 October Gene Rigsby
- 2 November Bill Fulton
- 20 November Paul Hebein
- 11 December Tony Yarbrough
- 21 December Talon Bender

Happy Birthday to
Our Great
Americans!



Happy Days to our Chapter Celebrities for October,
November, December

Let us know your special Dates so that we can celebrate with you!



Projects that need YOU!

Below, you will find a short description of our ongoing projects. These have been developed to support our mission to Honor and Remember our POW/MIA Heroes! Contact a member of the Board to see how you can add your hands to the working committees!

Honor Chair

You have seen the chairs in stadiums, city halls and the National Capitol? Help us to identify new settings for this Chair!

Street Signs

We have over 60 MIAs in Illinois due to the Vietnam War. This project includes contacting the hometowns and discussing how to remember these heroes by naming a street in their honor!

Table Ceremonies



The Honor Table that you see here on this page, is a very somber memorial to the 82,000+ still Missing. The Ceremony can be presented to any size group... large or small and teaches the importance of remembering!

School Presentations

Teaching the next generation about our Heroes allows them to appreciate the sacrifices made to maintain American Values! Ask your children/grandchildren for the information for their social studies teachers! We will do the rest...

ELECTED OFFICERS & DIRECTORS		COMMITTEE LEADERS		ROGER THAT	
President	Ted Makarewicz Hogski@hotmail.com	Activities	Bill Fulton whf5069@aol.com	Executive Editor	Ted Makarewicz Hogski@hotmail.com
Vice President	Tony Yarbrough Anthony.Yarbrough@flex.com	Charity	Reggie Rush RRush993@gmail.com	Editor-in-Chief	Mary Kirkpatrick Mawalters57@gmail.com
Treasurer	Paul Hebein Hebein36388@comcast.com	Membership	Cindy DeLoro cindy324@att.net	Publisher	Mary Kirkpatrick Mawalters57@gmail.com
Secretary	Bob Pulman BPCareer9@aol.com	Safety	Paul Hebein hebein36388@comcast.net	EDITORS	
Chairman of the Board	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com	Website	Bill Fulton whf5069@aol.com	Executive & Board	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com
Past President	Don DeLoro Don_De@att.net	Quarter master	Mark Mazurkewicz MSM27636365@gmail.com	Safety & Road Captains	Don DeLoro Don_De@att.net
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Director	Cindy DeLoro Cindy324@att.net	Education Chair	Mary Kirkpatrick Mawalters57@gmail.com	Charity and Education	Mary Kirkpatrick Mawalters57@gmail.com
Director	Bill Fulton, whf5069@aol.com	Chaplain	Mary Kirkpatrick Mawalters57@gmail.com	Events & Calendar	Bill Fulton whf5069@aol.com
Director	Mary Kirkpatrick MAWalters57@gmail.com			Military Community	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com

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