



54<sup>th</sup> Mass Infantry

## VET NEWS BULLETS

March – May 2017

### INTELL UPDATE / IN THE NEWS



**Medal of Honor Recipient Melvin Morris:** SFC (Ret) Morris was born and grew up in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. In 1959 Morris joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard and soon after joined the active duty Army. He excelled in the military, becoming one of the first Green Berets in 1961 and twice volunteered for tours in Vietnam. Morris received the Medal of Honor for his valorous actions on September 17, 1969, while commanding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Co, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the IV Mobile Strike Force near Chi Lang, Vietnam. Then-Staff Sgt. Morris led an advance across enemy lines to recover the body of a fallen sergeant. With a bag of grenades,

Morris single-handedly destroyed several enemy bunkers that were pinning down his unit. Morris was shot three times during that engagement. He received the Medal from President Obama in March 18, 2014. In 2015, SFC Morris participated in a wreath laying at the 54<sup>th</sup> Mass Volunteer Infantry Regt monument in Boston, the military home of the first black Medal of Honor recipient, Sgt William Carney. Re-activated in 2008, the 54<sup>th</sup> Regt is comprised of HQs, Company A “Living History” and Company C “Honor Guard” of the Massachusetts Army National Guard.



**Senate confirms Shulkin as VA Secretary (Stars and Stripes, )**— David Shulkin will be the new secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs after winning one of the easiest Senate confirmations of all President Donald Trump’s cabinet nominees. The Senate voted 100-0 to confirm Shulkin on Monday evening. Shulkin, a physician, worked as VA undersecretary for health in 2015 and oversaw the country’s largest health care system, which comprises 1,700 facilities. Now in the VA’s top spot, he’ll take over leadership of its approximately 370,000 employees and an annual budget of nearly \$180 billion. Shulkin’s confirmation faced little resistance. Many prominent veterans organizations expressed their support for Trump’s pick, as did Democrats and Republicans on the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee after

a mostly amiable confirmation hearing Feb. 1. The 57-year-old will be the first VA secretary with no military service – a fact noted, but not condemned, by veterans organizations. Shulkin, whose father was an Army psychiatrist, was born at Fort Sheridan, an Army base in Illinois. During his confirmation hearing, Shulkin vowed to hold accountable poor-performing VA employees and reform the Veterans Choice Program, which allows veterans to seek care outside of the VA at the government’s expense.



**Tactical Tips for Health: *Be More Active This Year***- Aim for at least 2.5 hours of physical activity each week. Try taking a brisk 10-minute walk three times a day or using the stairs instead of the elevator throughout the day as ways to get in some cardio exercise. Of course, you should be realistic and set attainable goals. If you haven't done so much as walk around the block in the past two years, don't expect to run a marathon in two months. Don't set yourself up for failure. Just get out and make a start - the rest will follow! Also - consider taking the dog out for an extended walk (body armor not required). Note: you may want to get a smaller dog.

# SITREPS & ALERTS



54<sup>th</sup> Mass Infantry

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### INTELL UPDATE / IN THE NEWS (cont)



#### Same Day Service Now Offered at VA Boston!

Primary Care and Mental Health are now offering same day appointments for Veterans. What this means is that when patients call we'll ask if they need care that same day or follow up care, depending on the urgency. The VA may address health care needs by providing a face-to-face visit, returning a phone call, arranging a telehealth or video care visit, or scheduling a future appointment.

#### And - Veterans Can Now Directly Schedule Audiology and Optometry Appointments!

VA Boston is happy to announce that we now offer Veterans enrolled in the VA the opportunity to directly schedule their own routine ear and eye appointments without a Primary Care referral. Please keep in mind that this is for routine appointments, such as ear and eye exams. But, other routine procedures may also be included.

- **Audiology appointments** can be scheduled in person at the Jamaica Plain Campus, 8th Floor, D Wing or by calling 857-364-4730 or by speaking with staff where these services are provided.
- **Optometry appointments** can be scheduled at the below clinics or by calling 857-364-4418 or by speaking with staff where these services are provided.



#### Plymouth Regional Veterans Council

Approximately forty representatives from the towns and agencies in the Plymouth County region met on February 15<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful new “Wilcutt Commons Community Center” in Cohasset. Several VA and non-profit agencies presented Veteran support program information followed by networking and a lunch provided by the town. **Regional Council Meetings** are collaborative events which capitalize on the strengths of local relationships and are co-hosted by community partners to empower and connect anyone interested in the cause of Veterans’ well-being and resiliency.

Briefings were presented by the “Shoulder to Shoulder” military/Veteran family support program, Veterans, Incorporated, VA “Step Home” student Vet success program and the Salvation Army among others. The following is one of the VA programs presented that day:

**Seasoned Warriors!** The **Geriatric Mental Health Outpatient Clinic** at the VA Jamaica Plain and Brockton campuses has many resources available for Veterans across the spectrum, living independently, adjusting to retirement and Veterans requiring assistance from a caregiver to stay at home as long as safely possible. In addition there are educational groups on Insomnia, Mindfulness, Communication, Memory and Aging in addition to weekly longer term support groups. We are here to help the older Veteran navigate the next phase of their life in a healthy and active way. Please call Gayle Clark for more information at 774 826 2834.

Calendar POC: david.hencke@va.gov; 857-364-5934, VA Boston Veterans Outreach Task Force

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### INTELL UPDATE/IN THE NEWS



**Welcome Middleborough's New VSO – Jason Cox** A native of E. Bridgewater, MA, Jason enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2003. He served with the 1st Marine Logistics Group, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Maintenance BN, MTM Co, Camp Pendleton and deployed twice to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He became involved with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2125 in Bridgewater and became motivated to help Veterans connect with VA services. Jason says that being a VSO is “a dream job which offers me the opportunity to help Veterans and their families that truly need it... all I want to do is get my Veterans on the right track, and I believe I can accomplish just that.” Jason can be reached at (508) 946-2407 Ext 161 or at [jcox@middleborough.com](mailto:jcox@middleborough.com)



**Attention Korean War Veterans!** The Republic of Korea is expressing their appreciation for your service and is issuing an **Ambassador for Peace Medal** and ribbon set to any qualified American service member or to their next of kin if already deceased. The Boston area Korean Consulate will conduct presentation ceremonies for communities who are able to gather 10 or more living Veterans for such an event. Please note the following:

- Veterans must have served "Boots-on-Ground" in Korea; (i.e. received UN & Korean Service Medal...air, land sea area of responsibility) between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953
- Minimum of (10) with DD-214 & Applications completed in order for the Consulate to make presentations in your community. Posthumous awards are available.

Contact: Consulate of the Republic of Korea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Patriot & Veterans' Affairs; (617) 641-2830 or (617) 264-0404 and/or see attached application form



### Meet the Quincy Career Center's New Veterans Employment Representative – Brian Schilling.

He is the new Veterans Service Representative and is from Quincy. Brian graduated from Weymouth High School and served in the United States Marine Corps serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and deploying to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He can be reached at the Career Center with office hours 8:30AM – 4:30PM, and by phone at 617-745-4060.

### “Connect the Docs!” - New VA program through the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) Health Information Exchange program.

This reduces your need to carry paper records and ensures your providers have the information they need to provide you the best care. You can now share certain parts of your VA electronic health record for up to 10 years by signing VA Form 10-0485. When you “Connect Your Docs”, both your VA and community care providers participating in VLER Health Exchange have access to certain parts of your health record, making it easier for your team of health care providers to manage your care. For a listing of participating community care providers, visit [www.va.gov/vler](http://www.va.gov/vler).

### Connect Your Docs



# ON-GOING MISSIONS

## VET NET BOSTON

March – May 2017



**Mediation Services Offered by The MCC Law Center in Lowell** providing provides conflict resolution services and administer consumer protection, individual, community and trial court mediation services and training, as well as school-based violence prevention programs. All of our programs are free and supported by MCC. Our office works in cooperation with and is funded by the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General and the Massachusetts Office of Public Collaboration. For more information, contact them Mon-Fri 9:00 am to 4:30 pm at (978) 656-3342 or via email at [lawcenter@middlesex.mass.edu](mailto:lawcenter@middlesex.mass.edu)

### MORALE – WELFARE- RECREATION & NEWS



**WORLD WAR I & II Iconic 26th Yankee Division Battle Tours**— a European group tour specifically on the major battles of the 26th (YANKEE) Infantry Division from both World War I and World War II. Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Division's Founding featuring Paris, Belleau Wood, Meuse, Bastogne, Battle of the Bulge, Clervaux, Wurzburg, Schwarzenfeld, Pilsen, Hanau, and more. April 27 – May 8, 2017 (see attached flyer).

- ❖ **Women Veterans: Let's Play Hockey!** Saturday nights from OCT 2016—MAR 2017; Programs include Learn to Skate/Skills Development and Scrimmage Games. All sessions are at Edge Rink, Bedford MA, starting at 9:20 To sign up and check for dates go to [Skate-forthe22.com](http://Skate-forthe22.com)
- ❖ **Free Veterans Yoga in Framingham** -FREE for veterans, active duty and family members. All classes held at Open Spirit: A Place of Hope, Health & Harmony at 39 Edwards Street, **Framingham**. **"Seeking Balance"** - led by Debbie Clark, Certified Yoga Instructor; [www.openspiritcenter.org](http://www.openspiritcenter.org); 508-877-8162
- ❖ **Salute Military Golf Outings Spring/Summer 2017** - SMGA sponsored Golf outings are open to all eligible SMGA Veteran Participants and SMGA Members from New England. Please see the attached list of outings. POC: Jerry Shanahan, Empowering Veterans One Fairway at a Time, 978-758-0011

### ON – GOING MISSIONS & EVENTS

- ❖ **VBA Claims Assistance at Chelsea Soldiers Home** - meet with a MA DVS claims specialist, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month and by appointment, Keville House, 91 Crest Avenue, Chelsea, MA, walk in hours 9am-1pm,
- ❖ **Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) On-Site Service Rep!**
  - Brockton VA Campus, Bldg 3, Eligibility – alt Fridays, 8am-4:30pm, Karen Ameri, 508-583-4500, x 2058
  - Brockton VA Campus, , Bldg 3, Eligibility – alternate Fridays, 8-10am, Patrick Bailey, 508-583-4500, x 2058
  - Jamaica Plain Campus, 1<sup>st</sup> Fl, Comp & Pen Desk, Tues/Thurs, 7:30-3; James Robinson, 617-303-4986
  - W. Roxbury Campus, Eligibility, Thursdays, 8:30-11:45am, Anthony Jackson, 617-303-4992
- ❖ **Disability Claim Assistance** – the Dept of MA **VFW Service Officer** is available at two accessible locations:
  - **Brockton VA Campus** every Tuesday, 9am-3pm, VFW office, Bldg 3, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room A-504
  - **Jamaica Plain VA Campus** – every Thursday, 9am-3pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, C Wing, Room 34
  - POC: Delray Dorsey, [delraydorsey1399@gmail.com](mailto:delraydorsey1399@gmail.com); 781-812-8125
  - Also available for home visits for house bound Veterans

Calendar POC: [david.hencke@va.gov](mailto:david.hencke@va.gov); 857-364-5934, VA Boston Veterans Outreach Task Force

# ON-GOING MISSIONS

## VET NET BOSTON


March – May 2017

- ❖ **Lowell Vet Center Programs - 10 George St., Lowell** – see Rich Barbato or Cheryl Michaud at: (978) 453-1151 , or richard.barbato@va.gov / Cheryl.Michaud@va.gov
  - **OEF/OIF/OND Group meeting:** Thursday evenings, 5:30-7:00pm – facilitated by combat Vets.
  - **Warrior Yoga:** Mondays, 6 - 7pm on Mon and Wed; 12:00-1:20pm on Wed; 1:00-2:20pm on Friday
  - **Walk The War Off, OEF/OIF/OND Vet Hiking Group:** Second Tuesday of every month, 6:30pm, see Rich
  - **Vet Partner/Spouse Support Group** – Wednesdays, 3:30-5pm; provide specialized support, psycho-education, and skills to female partners of Vets; POC: Amanda Mead or Catherine Chasse, (978) 453-1151
  
- ❖ **“Veterans Business Owner’s Initiative” Classes** – a group of organizations and programs designed to help Vets develop and manage their own successful businesses. Tuesdays at 2pm, Brockton VA Campus, Building 22, Room 223C. More information at [www.vboi.info](http://www.vboi.info).
  
- ❖ **Team Red White & Blue Group Run** – 6:30-7:30, Wednesdays, Marathon Sports, 671 Boylston St, **Boston**; Thursdays, 287 School Street, **Mansfield** and 300 Martin Luther King Jr Way, **Lowell**; roughly 3 mile course
  
- ❖ **“60+ Veterans Group”** – meets every Wednesday, 10am-noon; **Twelfth Baptist Church**, 150 Warren St, Roxbury, MA, (617) 442-7855
  
- ❖ **OIF/OEF/OND Group:** meets every second and fourth Wednesday; 5:30 PM at the **Boston Vet Center**, 7 Drydock Ave Boston; call Amy at 857-203-3009 or Steve at 857-203-3005.
  
- ❖ **Vets Re-Employment Support Services at VA Boston:** Resume writing, interview prep, goal setting, Job Placement; **JP**-Mondays, 11am-2pm, Rm D3-122; **Brockton**-Thursdays, 8am-4pm, Bldg 7, Rm A104. For more info call 774-826-3069.
  
- ❖ **VETERANS COFFEE SOCIAL – North Shore CC, LYNN CAMPUS CAFETERIA 10AM – 11:30AM EVERY TUESDAY;** Meet and socialize with other veterans while enjoying a complimentary cup of coffee and snack!
  
- ❖ **Veterans Coffee Socials (host: VA Community Recovery Connections Team )**
  - **Lynn** - Tuesday mornings at 117 Franklin St. from 0800-0930 (**Veterans Resource Center**)
  - **Bedford VA** - Thursday mornings in the canteen from 0730-0900 (**Cafeteria**)
  - **Lowell** - Thursday evening at Santoro’s Restaurant , 194 Gorham St. from 400-600 (**Pizza Place**)
  - **Gloucester** - Friday mornings at 12 Emerson Ave. in from 0730-0900. (**VSO’s Office**)
  - **Haverhill** – Friday mornings, 8-11am at 10 Reed Street
  - **Lawrence** – Tuesdays, 8-9:15, Lawrence Senior Center, 115 Haverhill St
  - **Somerville** - Monday mornings at Mass Bay Veterans Center located at 2 North St. 7:30-9:00\*Contact Tony Russo, VA Bedford, 781-687-3322
  
- ❖ **Walk-In Legal Clinic for Low Income/Homeless Veterans - Veterans Legal Services** provides comprehensive civil legal services. Call 617-552-0623 to see if you are income eligible. **Mondays** at the Chelsea Soldiers Home, 10:30-12:30 and **Wednesdays**, 6-7pm at the NE Center & Home for Vets, 17 Court St, Boston
  
- ❖ **Take Back Your Life - “Silent No More”**- hands on therapy program for mental strength building held daily at the VA Brockton Campus. Contact [Grishelda.Hogan@va.gov](mailto:Grishelda.Hogan@va.gov) or at VA Boston Mental Health 774- 826-1242
  
- ❖ **Monthly New England Vets Gathering** - 6-9pm every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at The Point - 147 Hanover Street (Faneuil Hall) - Upstairs Bar; socialize, connect and strengthen Vet bonds. Contact Michael Petit at [Michael.Petit@ny.email.gs.com](mailto:Michael.Petit@ny.email.gs.com)
  
- ❖ **Worcester – Vets Pizza Social** – at **Project New Hope**, 70 James Street, Ste 157, every third Friday, 12-2pm. Everyone welcome; come and enjoy. Call 774-243-7859

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- ★ **Veterans Support and Counseling Center Framingham**- Veterans need to be able to have services come to them and that is goal of the VA Vet Center Community Access Point at the Open Spirit Building on the campus of Edwards Church, 39 Edwards Street in the Saxonville section of **Framingham**. Hours are Monday, 0800-1830; Wednesday, 0800-1830 and Thursday, 0800-1830. Connect with Veteran Dave Heilman at 413-584-4040.
- ★ **Boston Vet Counseling Center Group Meetings** (5-11 Dry Dock Ave, Suite 2070 Boston, MA 02210). Contact Kimberly Walker for more info at (857)203-6461.
  - Monday - Vietnam PTSD 12:00 – 1:30 pm
  - Tuesday - HUMV Veteran Support 8:00-11:00am
  - Wednesday - PTSD Vietnam 10:00am – 12:00pm (Every 2-weeks)
  - Thursday - Vietnam African American 10:00am – 12:00pm (Monthly); Vietnam PTSD 6:30 – 8:30pm
  - Friday - Mindfulness 11:00am – 12:30pm
-  **INCREASING RESILIENCE IN MILITARY FAMILIES** - Six FREE Sessions, Beginning February 13th Mondays, 6:00-7:30pm, Beverly YMCA, 254 Essex Street. Learn the latest mind-body medicine techniques to manage specific stressors facing any military family member. Goals are to reduce physical symptoms of stress understand the link between stress and physical/emotional health and develop relaxation and coping skills to improve health & well-being. FREE KIDS YOGA CLASS AND CHILDCARE. Register at [homebase.org/resilientfamily](http://homebase.org/resilientfamily).
- ★ **Vets Talk Group – Hudson** - connect and network with area Vets every other Thursday. Next meeting is on March 2, starting at 9:00AM at the Hudson, MA Senior Center, 29 Church Street.

### EDUCATION, CAREERS & EMPLOYMENT



**Heidrea for Heroes \$500 Legacy Scholarship** - Deserving students may apply by April 14, 2017 to include: a child of a veteran or currently enrolled in Jr ROTC, a senior in high school that maintained between a 2.5 & 4.0 GPA through-out his/her final two years of high school, those planning to enroll full-time in a bachelor's degree. Learn more and apply at: <http://heidrea4heroes.org/supporters/scholarships/>

- **Mass Department of Health & Human Services Jobs** - Please use this link for current employment opportunities within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS): [CLICK HERE](#). You can find employment opportunities at the Soldiers' Homes as well as other agencies within EOHHS. Please share with any Veterans seeking employment who may be interested in working in State Government.
- **Student Loan Forgiveness** - Do you know about the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program? Under this program, members of the military may have their federal student loans fully discharged?! You need to be employed in these position at least full-time (about 30 hrs/wk). The way the program works is that after making 120 monthly and on-time consolidated and re-duced payments, your remaining balance will be forgiven. Click [here](#) to find out more today or go to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/military-student-loan-benefits.pdf>
- **ATTENTION - VETERANS With Disabilities!** – Are you a US military Veteran with a disability looking for employment? Are you helping a disable Veteran find work? Put your skills to work at JOBS WITHOUT LIMITS! A free job services that helps you discover job and career opportunities from leading Massachusetts employers. Call 508-856-2774 or go to [WorkWithoutLimits.Org](http://WorkWithoutLimits.Org). (a program of the UMASS Medical School).

#### EDUCATION, CAREERS & EMPLOYMENT (CONT)

- **Veterans Service Officer Position for the towns of Holyoke** - For more information and to apply, email VSO James Mahoney at [mahoneyj@holyoke.org](mailto:mahoneyj@holyoke.org). Payscale \$50K - \$69K.



➤ The Mission Continues is a national nonprofit organization founded in 2007, to empower veterans who are adjusting to life at home to find purpose through community impact. We believe that community service can provide a renewed sense of purpose, restore social connections, and create new opportunities for civic impact. We are seeking a City Impact Manager who is motivated to lead and attract the next generation of community leaders in Boston Click [here](http://www.missioncontinues.org) to apply and/or contact Stephanie at [smgrimes@missioncontinues.org](mailto:smgrimes@missioncontinues.org)

- **\$500 Grant for Children of Deployed Troops!** - Dependent Children of a Service Member who is deployed overseas are eligible for a grant of up to \$500 to pay for activities from Our Military Kids. Our Military Kids, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non profit organization, supports children, ages 5-18 (K-12th grade), of deployed National Guard and Reserve service members and children of wounded warriors from all service branches. Grants pay for participation in activities that help children cope with stress an anxiety while their parents are recovering or absent. <http://ourmilitarykids.org/>
- **Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm for a Research Study** at the Bedford VA to see if problem solving treatment improves the daily lives of Veterans with Gulf War Illness with the following symptoms: muscle or joint pain / trouble concentrating or remembering/ constant fatigue
  - Participants in the "**Cognitive Rehabilitation for Gulf War Illness**" research study receive 12 phone sessions of either problem solving treatment or health education over several months. Sessions last about one hours. Involves 2 visits to Bedford VA to complete questionnaires about health and views on Gulf War Illness & neuropsychological testing and 2 mailed questionnaire packets about how the sessions are going and how they're doing.
  - Compensation: You will be paid up to \$200 for your time. Some participants may be eligible to receive additional compensation for travel to the Bedford VA Medical Center. call Beth Ann Petrakis at 781 687-2975
- **Post-Incarceration Engagement (PIE) Project - Seeking Veterans who were released from Massachusetts prisons within the last 3 months for interviews** to help us design a peer support program to assist Veterans leaving prison. Staff from the Bedford VA will meet you at a time and place that is convenient for you. You will be given a \$20 gift card for your time if you are interviewed. If interested in participating or have any questions, please call Beth Ann at 781-687-2975.



**New Financial Counselor for Cape Cod:** full time personal financial counselor, **Debra Antel** provides free services for members of all branches (Guard, Reserve, AD)! She is a certified financial planner and contractor, offers no cost, private and confidential services for those that don't have enough money, those that don't know what to do with their extra money, and all those in between. She can meet with individuals for support and counseling services, or to present to groups for training and education workshops. She works primarily from Joint Base Cape Cod but will travel a 50 mile radius to provide support. Contact her at Cell: 774-205-5463; email: [PFC4.MA.NG@zeiders.com](mailto:PFC4.MA.NG@zeiders.com)

- **FREE SQL Training to Veterans and Military** offered by the Colaberry School of Data Analytics . For more information, please stop by your local One Stop Career Center in Massachusetts and speak with the Veterans Representative.
- **"Suit UP!" – Free Suits for Veterans!** – "H4H" in partnership with "Men's Wearhouse" is helping veterans who are job seeking or hoping to advance in their current employment. Qualifying veterans from southeastern Massachusetts who are job seeking or pursuing employee advancement can apply for and receive a FREE new suit ensemble and H4H will cover the full discounted cost of the ensemble, plus tailoring! This is a limited opportunity; applications evaluated on a first come, first serve basis. H4H also provides an equal benefit for women Veterans as well. Go to [www.heidrea4heroes.org/suit-up](http://www.heidrea4heroes.org/suit-up).



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EVENT TITLE & HOST	DATE	LOCATION	NOTES
<b>Patriot Resilient Leader Institute Women Veterans Conference</b> <b>Free Event</b> <a href="http://prli.us">http://prli.us</a>	3/7-10/2017	Camp Resilience Gilford, NH	Winter sports, workshops discussing such topics as wellness through lifestyle changes, resiliency and trauma recovery. The session will be led and facilitated completely by women. Email <a href="mailto:info@prli.us">info@prli.us</a> or call (603) 520-3989 for more info.
<b>Newton Veterans Night</b> <b>“GI to CEO” WWII Veteran</b> <b>Richard Silverman</b>  <b>City of Newton Vets</b>	3/7/17	Veterans Service Center 345 Walnut St. Newton MA	Time: 5:30-8pm. hear a dynamic story from a Newton local and WWII Army veteran Giving a detailed accounts of his landing on Normandy and his attendance on the day Paris was liberated! Contact: <a href="mailto:sbai@newtonma.gov">sbai@newtonma.gov</a> ; (617) 796-1092
Women Vets Ski Day VA Boston & NE Handicapped Sports	3/7/17	Mt. Sunapee Ski Resort 1398 Route 103 Newbury, NH 03255	Women Vet focused ski day free to all pre-registered female Veterans. POC: Jenny McLaughlin; Jenny McLaughlin, CTRS, Adaptive Sports Case Manager, 774-826-1955, <a href="mailto:Jenny.mclaughlin@va.gov">Jenny.mclaughlin@va.gov</a>
<b>Greater Boston Veterans Collaborative</b>	3/8/17	VA Boston JP Campus 150 S. Huntington Av Jamaica Plain, MA	2-5pm with a “Vet Together” following nearby. Meet, network, learn and serve with regional agencies and fellow Veterans. <b>Results of the RAND statewide Vet survey to be released/discussed.</b> POC: David Wu, (617) 635-2257; <a href="mailto:david.wu@boston.gov">david.wu@boston.gov</a>
<b>Supporting Our Veterans in the Commonwealth</b> A Community Conversation w/State Sen Jason Lewis	3/8/17	Galvin Middle School Auditorium 525 Main Street, Wakefield, MA	Time: 6:30pm; discussing landmark legislation passed to support veterans and families, top priorities and other steps being taken by the Commonwealth. Contact <a href="mailto:Jason.Lewis@masenate.gov">Jason.Lewis@masenate.gov</a> or (617) 722-1206
<b>Military &amp; Veteran Statewide Assessment brief back</b>	3/9/17	MA National Guard Joint Force HQs Assembly Hall 1st floor, 2 Randolph Road, Hanscom AFB, MA	Time: 9am- noon; non DoD ID card holders must enter through the Vandenberg Gate. Stakeholders and support agencies will be briefed and discuss the results of the RAND Survey and the resulting tools available. POC: <a href="mailto:Tanya.m.Rioux.civ@mail.mil">Tanya.m.Rioux.civ@mail.mil</a> ; 339-202-4806
<b>Project New Hope PTSD &amp; Substance Use Disorders Retreat</b>	3/10-12/17	Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center 167 Prescott St, Groton, MA 01450	Participate in the healing power of mutual support, targeted services and the camaraderie of friends. Veterans from all eras from across the United States are welcome. <a href="https://www.projectnewhopema.org/retreats/">https://www.projectnewhopema.org/retreats/</a>
<b>FREE Military/Veterans Friends and Family “Humor Therapy Day”</b> Hosted by Heroes in Transition	3/11/17	Coonamessett Inn 311 Gifford St, Falmouth, MA	Time: 10am-5pm; share in a day of rejuvenation, humor, camaraderie & community. Let humor help manage stress, develop better communication skills and learn to cope. Call 774-836-8163





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<b>Annual “Hire a Veteran” Breakfast</b> Host: Neponset Valley Sunrise Rotary	3/15/17	MIT Endicott House 80 Haven St Dedham, MA	Time: 7:30am; meet with potential employers; bring resumes and business cards with them. POC: John Gorham, 781-292-3290 jgorham @bulfinchgroup.com
<b>Welcome Home Veterans Ski Appreciation Day!</b> VA Boston Healthcare System and New England Healing Sports Assn	3/16/16	Mt. Sunapee Resort 1398 Route 103 Newbury, NH	Learn to ski or snowboard or better their skills. Vets will be provided with equipment (if needed), a lift ticket, lunch, and morning and afternoon lessons. Register by March 3, POC: jenny.mclaughlin@va.gov; (774) 826-1955
<b>“Vet 2 Vet” Networking Group</b> <a href="http://www.vet2vet-Boston.homestead.com">www.vet2vet-Boston.homestead.com</a>	3/17/17	VA Boston 150 S. Huntington Jamaica Plain	11am-1pm; provides peer-to-peer support for veterans. We are not therapists but the sessions, in and of themselves, are therapy. Call in at 800-767-1750 code: 09828#; contact Dave McCarthy at ernh3@aol.com
<b>Metro-West Regional Veterans Council</b> Regional Collaborative	3/22/17	Employment Resources & Tng Ctr 1671 Worcester Rd Framingham, MA	Time: 9-12; meet and greet 8:30; network, fellowship, and learn. Multiple speakers and program updates. Open to all regional partners. <a href="mailto:DBradshaw@etrcc.com">DBradshaw@etrcc.com</a> ; 508.766.5732
<b>“02X Human Performance Resilience Series” Vets, Family, First Responders</b> Host: Boston Fire Dept, BFD Local 718 and Mayor Walsh	3/22/17	Florian Hall 55 Hallet Street Boston, MA	8:30-3pm; Topics include tapping into your resilience in times of adversity, sleep/performance/ brain health, and skills for transitioning from stress of the workplace to home. Register at <a href="https://bfdmarchresilience.eventbrite.com/">https://bfdmarchresilience.eventbrite.com/</a>
<b>Edith Nourse Rodgers/Bedford VAMC VSO Open House</b>	3/24/17	VAMC Bedford (ENR) Bldg 61, Rm 120 200 Springs Rd Bedford, MA	Time: 8am-3pm; orientation to VA Healthcare services offered at Bedford VA. Lunch provided. RSVP to Jacque Holiday NLT 17 March; <a href="mailto:Jacqueline.Holliday@va.gov">Jacqueline.Holliday@va.gov</a> ; phone: (781) 687-3348
<b>“The Man in the Cowboy Hat” Carlos Arredondo Premiere Film Screening and Discussion</b>	3/25/17	Rabb Lecture Hall, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston	2pm; Carlos is best known for saving a life during the Boston Marathon bombing and for his service to area Veterans. But the story begins a decade earlier with the death of his own son, Alex, in the Iraq War
<b>Norfolk County Regional Veterans Council Meeting</b> Veteran Support Providers Collaborative	3/29/17	Norwood Career Center 275 Prospect St #24, Norwood, MA 02062 Phone:(781) 769-4120	Time: 9am-1pm; quarterly networking and training for town VSOs, Vet support agencies and all interested parties; lunch provided. POC: Dale Kurz, dkurtz@ norfolkcounty.org or call (781) 234-3434



54<sup>th</sup> Mass Infantry

# VET NET BOSTON

## March – May 2017

EVENT TITLE & HOST	DATE	LOCATION	NOTES
<b>Seeking Peace in Difficult Times Presentation by Paul K. Chappell</b> Joiner Institute UMASS Boston	3/29/17	UMass Bostn Campus Center Ballroom 100 Morrissey Blvd Boston	West Point graduate and Army combat Veteran. He now believes in nonviolence, and he is the author of the 'Road to Peace' series. 617-287-5850
<b>Veterans/Military &amp; Family Appreciation Night</b> Hosts: City of Newton, Am Legion, VA Boston, VA Bedford and NAMI	3/29/17	Am Legion Post 16 295 California St Newton, MA	5-8pm; Join fellow Vets, friends and families for an evening of food, fellowship, resources and discussion of challenges facing our military/Veteran community. Contact Tom Raposa at TRaposa443@aol.com
<b>“First Muster” Ceremony Salem Common</b>	4/1/17	Salem Common Salem, MA	Commemorating the birth of the American military with the establish of the Bay Colony Militia – today’s Massachusetts Army National Guard. Events at St Peter's Church, 9:30 a.m.; Armory Park, 10:15 a.m.; Salem Common, 11:30 a.m.
<b>Greater Boston Veterans Job Fair</b> Host: Recruit Military and DAV	4/6/17	One Patriot Place Gillette Stadium Foxboro, MA	11am-3pm; New England’s largest military related job and career fair. POC: Rob Arndt, 617-841-8000 rarndt@recruitmilitary.com
<b>Veteran/Warrior Award Winning Poet – Brian Turner</b> Babson College “Thompson Visiting Poet 2017”	4/7/17	Sorenson Center for the Arts 231 Forest Street Babson Park Wellesley, MA	7pm; served 7 years in the US Army Infantry including a year in Iraq. Author of two poetry collections, <i>Phantom Noise</i> and <i>Here, Bullet</i> . POC: Prof Mary O’Donoghue at modonoghue@babson.edu
<b>Thanks to Yanks 3rd Annual All You Can Eat Breakfast Fundraiser</b>	4/8/17	St. Blaise Church 1158 S Main St Bellingham, MA	6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. (set-up) on Saturday, April 8 and 6:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Sunday April 9
<b>VA Open House! Benefits and Services</b> VA Boston & VA Bedford	4/13/17	Community Based Outpatient Clinic 130 Marshall Road Lowell, MA	Time TBD
<b>Tough Ruck Boston 2017</b> Military Friends Fdn, Boston Athletic Assn , Ntl Park Service toughruck@militaryfriends.org	4/16/17	The Old Manse 269 Monument Street, Concord, MA	Time: Alternate Boston Marathon event. Regstn: 5:30am; Step-off:7:15military, college ROTC units Vets, first responders, and civilian supporters welcome. Call 1-84-HELP-VETS
<b>Project New Hope PTSD Retreat</b>	4/20-22/17	Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center 167 Prescott St, Groton, MA 01450	Participate in the healing power of mutual support, targeted services and the camaraderie of friends. Veterans from all eras from across the United States are welcome. <a href="https://www.projectnewhopema.org/retreats/">https://www.projectnewhopema.org/retreats/</a>



54<sup>th</sup> Mass Infantry

# VET NET BOSTON

March – May 2017

EVENT TITLE & HOST	DATE	LOCATION	NOTES
<b>AGENT ORANGE</b> <b>Town Hall Meeting</b> Hosts: Greenfield CC, Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services, Vietnam Veterans of Massachusetts Inc	4/22/17	Greenfield Community College Dining Commons 1 College Drive Greenfield, MA	12-3:30pm; review issues and diseases caused by Agent Orange exposure and benefits available. Q and A periods. Veterans' claims officers on site. Free Health Care Screening 12:00-1 pm. Contact (413) 772-1571 or (413) 775-1825
<b>Southeastern Mass</b> <b>Warrior/Veterans Expo and Fair!</b>  Middleborough Elks, Town of Middleborough and VA Boston	5/6/17	Middleborough Lodge of the Elks 24 High St, Middleboro, MA (508) 947-0190	10am – 2pm; An empowering and fun day for Vets, troops and families. Give aways, free music, lunch and snacks, kids activities and workshops. Every benefit and resource in the region represented! <a href="mailto:David.Hencke@va.gov">David.Hencke@va.gov</a> ; 857-364-5934
<b>16th Annual Marine Corps</b> <b>Honor Run</b> <b>Marine Corps Scholarship</b> <b>Foundation</b>	5/6/17	Carson Beach South Boston	Time: 9am; fundraising and fellowship. the Nation's oldest and largest provider of cholarships to military children whose parent has been killed or wounded in combat, or who have demonstrated financial need.. <a href="http://www.mchonorrun.com">www.mchonorrun.com</a> ; <b>888-767-RACE</b>
<b>"Ruck4HIT Cape Cod 2017"</b> <b>Heroes In Transition Fundraiser</b> To run volunteer, FB: Ruck4HIT or ruck4hit@gmail.com.	5/5-6/17	Cape Cod	A team-based endurance ruck relay event. 20 teams of seven who will ruck 220+ miles through Cape Cod as participants run from one end of the Cape to the other and back! Each athlete will run 3-4 miles, running 24/7 until completion . \$80 registration fee.
<b>Salute Military Golf Association</b> <b>Cranberry Valley Golf Outing</b>	5/8/17	Cranberry Valley Golf Course 183 Oak Street, Harwich, MA	Registration 7:30; Shot Gun Start 8:30 am.; Wounded/ Injured Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans from Cape Cod, South Shore & RI to enjoy a day of golf and camaraderie Email Jerry Shanahan <a href="mailto:jerrys@smgaboston.org">jerrys@smgaboston.org</a>
<b>North Shore Veterans &amp;</b> <b>Community Job &amp; Resource Fair</b> NSCC, Salem State College, NS Career Centers	5/9/17	North Shore Community College Lynn Campus Gym 300 Broad Street	Time: 2-3pm Veterans only; 3-5pm open to the public. Vet benefits and resource tables also on site. POC: <a href="mailto:kbabcock@northshore.edu">kbabcock@northshore.edu</a>
<b>Thanks to Yanks</b> <b>3rd Annual Comedy Fundraiser</b>	5/12/17	Scioli's Pizza Bar 146 South Main St Milford, MA	5-10pm; food and fun. <a href="http://thankstoyanks.org/">http://thankstoyanks.org/</a>
<b>South Shore Career Center</b> <b>Job Fair</b>	5/18/17	Lombardo's in Randolph 6 Billings St Randolph, MA	Time: 1-4pm; Opportunity to engage with 70-80 employers . For more information contact the Quincy Career Center Veterans Service Representative, Brian Schilling at 617-745-4060 or by email: <a href="mailto:bschilling@pqcc.org">bschilling@pqcc.org</a>



54<sup>th</sup> Mass Infantry

# VET NET BOSTON

March – May 2017

EVENT TITLE & HOST	DATE	LOCATION	NOTES
<b>Project New Hope Women Veterans Retreat</b>	5/19- 21/17	Grotonwood Camp and Conference Center 167 Prescott St, Groton, MA 01450	Participate in the healing power of mutual support, targeted services and the camaraderie of friends. Veterans from all eras from across the United States are welcome. <a href="https://www.projectnewhopema.org/retreats/">https://www.projectnewhopema.org/retreats/</a>
<b>“They Fought – We Ride!” Wounded Vet Bike Run Motorcycle Ride and Concert</b>	5/21/17	Endpoint: Suffolk Downs 550 McClellan Hwy E. Boston, MA	Fundraiser to support 5 of NE’s most severely wounded Warriors; Start: 12pm, Endpoint events at 2pm, food, music, vendors, <a href="http://www.TheyFoughtWeRide.com">www.TheyFoughtWeRide.com</a> , Call Andrew: 903-340-9402
<b>Boston Hiring Expo with the Boston Red Sox</b>	5/23/17	Fenway Park 20 Yawkey Way Boston, MA	Time: 9:30-11 –Employment workshop, 11-2pm Hiring Fair, 7:10pm Red Sox game (2 tickets for each pre-registered Vet). Register at <a href="https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/event/boston-hiring-expo">https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/event/boston-hiring-expo</a>