



SIMPSON-GALLA-FERRARO MEMORIAL POST 10556

VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS

9400 West Palmetto Park Road

Boca Raton, Florida 33428

August 2018

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Commander's Corner



As our year progresses, we continue to plan activities for our members. In addition to our work at the VA Medical Center (VAMC), we also have an active social and activities calendar. Our dinners continue to be a success, and we hope you will join us as we enjoy good food and comradeship with each other and our families. We want to be family friendly and hope you will bring your families to Post activities. In September, we are jointly planning a picnic at the Post with the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1125, in Boca Raton.

We have many mutual interests and hope to work together on mutually beneficial projects.

Membership is a continuing need of any VFW post or any organization. We want to continue to reach out to veterans who are eligible, but don't belong to the VFW. We need to inform these veterans of the many VFW programs and assistance we can provide them. If you know of a veteran in need, please refer him or her to our Post. We welcome all veterans. Remember, membership in the VFW is a mutual benefit for both the veteran and our Post.

As the school year begins, we will be working on several activities to benefit our youth, among them contacting schools and youth organizations to encourage participation in our youth essay contests: The Voice of Democracy for high school students and The Patriots Pen for middle school students. In addition, we plan to work closely with the NJROTC at Boca Raton Community High School, the Marine Corps JROTC at Olympic Heights Community High School, the Boca Delray US Naval Sea Cadets, and the Civil Air Patrol Boca Raton Composite Squadron. Our youth are the future of our democracy, and these organizations demonstrate the best traits and training for our young boys and girls.

If you participate in any activities, whether at the Post or in the community, please report this participation to Gary Rose, our Program Chairman, so he can report this service to the state VFW. We are constantly doing things for our veterans and the community, so take credit for your achievements by submitting a report.

A big reason to be in the VFW is to share comradeship and experiences with your fellow veterans. Come by the Post and join your friends with small talk and coffee. We want to have a positive, welcoming Post to attract and retain members. Each of us must do our part to make Post 10556 the best Post in the state and the nation. Be proud—participate!

In Comradeship,
Barry Goldin, Post Commander



2018-2019 Post 10556 Officers & Committee Chairs

Position	Name	Position	Name
Commander	Barry A. Goldin	Program Chairman	Gary D. Rose
Senior Vice Commander	William T. Tydings	Judge Advocate	Bruce L. Gilpin
Junior Vice Commander	Daniel J. Thomas	Service Officer	Samuel J. Shoptaw, Jr.
Quartermaster	Warren J. Muench	Trustee-1 yr.	William B. Doyle
Chaplain	Richard P. Melohn	Trustee-2 yr.	Gary D. Rose
Surgeon	Gertrudis Perez-Dusek	Trustee-3 yr.	Alvah E. Ingersoll
Adjutant	Daniel J. Thomas	Newsletter Editor	Warren J. Muench

Important Post Information

Post Phone Number:
561-477-2779

Post E-Mail
vfwpost10556@gmail.com

Post Website
www.vfwpost10556.org

Check it out! Gary Rose has created a very attractive website with plenty of Post and VFW-related information and graphics.

Post Facebook Page

Our Facebook page is up and running. If you have a Facebook account, send a friend request to “**VFW Boca Raton.**” If you want to share your photos and thoughts, you’re welcome to use our Facebook page.

Post Your News and Announcements Here

Publish the important days in your life; let everyone share in your joy and successes!

To submit announcements or stories, please contact Warren Muench at wjmuench@gmail.com.

Post 10556 Boosters

Become a **Post Booster** for \$10.00 or more a year and have your name listed in this newsletter. To donate, please contact Mike Day or Bruce Gilpin. Cash or a check made out to **VFW Post 10556** gladly accepted.

2018 Boosters			
Elliott Lichtenstein	Richard Melohn	Melvin Panitz	Mike Day
Melvin Sacherow	Charles Epstein	Al Lesser	John Schachleiter
Leo Capsuto	Tami Cirinese	Daniel Thomas	William (Bill) Murray
William Tydings	Bruce Gilpin	William Doyle	Fred S. Darrow
Barry Goldin	Alvah Ingersoll	Warren Muench	Arthur Pion
<i>Your name here!</i>			

Events Calendar

August 2018

Antiterrorism Awareness Month

- 1 Wed *Air Force Day*
- 3 Fri *National Watermelon Day*
- 4 Sat *U.S. Coast Guard Birthday*
- 6 Mon *Hiroshima Day*
- 7 Tue *Purple Heart Day*
- 11 Wed *Night on the Town, 5 p.m., Place TBA*
- 14 Tue *V-J (Victory over Japan) Day (1945)*
- 14 Tue ***Hospital Visit–WPB VAMC***
- 14 Tue ***Post Agenda Meeting***
- 16 Thu *National Airborne Day*
- 18 Sat ***Post General Membership Meeting–1000***
- 19 Sun *National Aviation Day*
- 26 Sun *Women's Equality Day*
- 28 Tue ***Hospital Visit–WPB VAMC***
- 29 Wed *Marine Forces Reserve Birthday*

September 2018

Antiterrorism Awareness Month

- 2 Sun *V-J Day-Ceremony & Formal Signing of Japanese Surrender*
- 3 Mon ***Labor Day***
- 9 Sun *National Grandparent's Day*
- 11 Tue ***Hospital Visit–WPB VAMC***
- 11 Tue ***Post Agenda Meeting***
- 11 Tue *9/11 Remembrance Day*
- 11 Tue *Patriot Day*
- 12 Wed *Night on the Town, 5 p.m., Place TBA*
- 15 Sat ***Post General Membership Meeting–1000***
- 17 Mon *VFW Ladies Auxiliary Day*
- 18 Tue *US Air Force Birthday (USAF)*
- 18 Tue *Yom Kippur*
- 21 Fri *National POW/MIA Recognition Day*
- 22 Sat *Autumnal Equinox (First Day of Autumn)*
- 24 Mon *Family Day-Be Involved. Stay Involved.*
- 24 Mon *Rosh Hashanah Begins (at sunset)*
- 25 Tue ***Hospital Visit–WPB VAMC***
- 29 Sat ***VFW Day***
- 30 Sun ***Gold Star Mother's Day***

Hospital Report: VAMC–West Palm Beach



In July, VFW Post 10556 held Horse Racing with residents of the Community Living Center (CLC) on the second and fourth Tuesdays. The Post gave out \$200 in Canteen books to the residents during each visit. My thanks go to the participating Post members for helping to make Horse Racing a success.

In addition to Horse Racing, the Post holds a luncheon for the residents of the CLC, Blind Rehab, and Mental Health once each quarter. On July 10, Post 10556 provided a BBQ luncheon catered by Lucille's Bad to the Bone BBQ in Boca Raton. The residents and patients really enjoy the outstanding BBQ and sides. Following the luncheon, we held Horseracing in the afternoon. Our next quarterly luncheon will be held in October, and we expect to have fried chicken catered by the Canteen at the Medical Center. We welcome any members or friends who would like to participate in any of the Post events held at the Medical Center.

As the VAVS Representative of the VFW for the State of Florida and the Chair of the VAVS Executive Committee at the Medical Center, it is my honor and responsibility to represent our veterans at the Medical Center. In this capacity, I work closely with Medical Center management and staff. The Medical Center at West Palm Beach is currently working to implement a five-year plan to ensure it provides excellence in care throughout each veteran's life and provides unparalleled access to high quality care and services when and where needed. Management is meeting with all employees to ensure all are committed to a patient-centered experience. The hospital is also working with the surrounding medical community to ensure best practices and partnerships.

I hope you will join me as we do all we can for all our veterans, both hospitalized and outpatient.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Goldin

Commander, Post 10556

VFW VAVS Representative, VAMC WPB

Activities Committee Report—August 2018



All attention is focused on the upcoming joint picnic with the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1025. We've set the date of Saturday, September 22, for this event and expect to begin serving food by 12:30 PM. Tickets at the event are \$8, but you may purchase your tickets in advance at the Post for \$5. Further details on ticket sales and prices will be announced in future emails and

brochures on the bulletin board.

If you can't get to the Post to buy tickets in advance, you may reserve them by responding to future email announcements or calling the Post to make your reservation. However, we will be purchasing food based on your responses, so we'll expect you to pay for the reserved tickets ASAP.

The menu will be similar to last year. We will be serving Angus Sirloin Bubba burgers and Sabrett all-beef frankfurters for everyone's enjoyment. We'll also have side dishes, chips, and drinks, and we encourage everyone to bring a dessert to share.

This year expect to have multiple drawings and be on the lookout for good door prizes. There is no additional charge for the drawing. Your meal ticket is your chance to win.

We're still working on plans for upcoming friends-and-family events and hope to make some announcements at the next membership meeting. The Friends and Family Meals are still being held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Miller's Ale House on Glades Road. No muss, no fuss, your

choice of good food, and a nice discount. Please let us know if you intend to join us so we can arrange appropriate seating. You can sign up at the post or reply to future emails announcing the event. We enjoy a nice 10% discount on regular menu prices.

We are getting closer to having Comcast Internet, cable television, and telephone service available at the Post. All the parties are in agreement and have signed the necessary contracts. Our coordinator, Gary Rose, has been working diligently on this for many months, and I'm sure he is relieved to have all the negotiations and paperwork finished. We will actually have a second telephone line coming into the Post as part of the bundle. Our Service Officer, Sam Shoptaw, has arranged for us to have a unique telephone on the second line that actually shows the conversation in text on a display screen. This is very helpful for the hearing impaired or for anybody trying to hear over the noisy conversations which sometimes occur at the Post. We also hope to have Wi-Fi service available for everyone very soon.

Book Review: "Long Daze at Long Binh"

Recently we were contacted by two Vietnam veterans who wrote a book about their experiences in Vietnam. This book is unique because it is both humorous and informative. I read the book and wrote a review (included elsewhere in this newsletter) to give everyone a better idea of its content. Visit their webpage to read sections of the book, learn more about it, or purchase it. I recommend it as enjoyable reading.

Yours in service,
Activities Committee
Mike Day (Chairman)

Post 10556 All-State Program Totals ▶ Current 3 Aug.18

2018-2019

Americanism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Members: 47 • Total Hours: 62.00 • Total Miles: 289.00 • Total Cost: 58.00 	Community Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Members: 53 • Total Hours: 42.00 • Total Miles: 128.00 • Total Cost: 145.00 	Drug and Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Members: 3 • Total Hours: 5.00 • Total Miles: 0.00 • Total Cost: 0.00 	Youth Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Members: 7 • Total Hours: 20.00 • Total Miles: 40.00 • Total Cost: 200.00 	Buddy Poppy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Members: 26 • Total Hours: 276.00 • Total Miles: 280.00 • Total Cost: 10.84
Fireman/Police/EMT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Members: 7 • Total Hours: 1.00 • Total Miles: 0.00 • Total Cost: 0.00 	Hospital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Members: 28 • Total Hours: 150.00 • Total Miles: 674.00 • Total Cost: 1965.00 	National Teacher Awd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Members: 0 • Total Hours: 0.00 • Total Miles: 0.00 • Total Cost: 0.00 	Patriot's Pen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Members: 0 • Total Hours: 0.00 • Total Miles: 0.00 • Total Cost: 0.00 	Voice of Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Members: 0 • Total Hours: 0.00 • Total Miles: 0.00 • Total Cost: 0.00

Provided by Gary Rose, Post Program Chairman

Service Officer's Corner



Cap Tel Demonstration

Last week, I had a meeting at the Vet Center in Pompano Beach with Captel Captioned Telephone Co.'s outreach educator and Lieutenant Colonel Gertrudis Perez-Dusek, the Vet Center supervisor. The purpose of our meeting was to set up a demonstration at the Vet Center and determine the requirements for providing a working unit at our Post.

We now have a live demonstration model at the Vet Center and when the new lines are installed at the Post we will have a fully working unit at our front desk.

Any member with any degree of hearing loss is eligible to have a Cap Tel phone installed in their home for free. Part of the outcome of the meeting was that I have been authorized to submit the applications for veterans needing this phone. At our next meeting at the Post, I will have a unit available so our members can actually see it.

“What is Cap Tel?”

Short for Captioned Telephone, Cap Tel is designed for people with hearing loss. It works like other amplified telephones—with an important addition: Every word your caller says is displayed on the Cap Tel screen to read, similar to TV closed captioning. Best of all, there is no cost.

“Why Is there No Cost?”

Cap Tel service is part of a federally funded program regulated by the FCC and is exclusively designed for individuals with hearing loss under provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. No contracts, no hidden fees.

Bring your questions to the next meeting, and I'll answer them. I will also have applications at the meeting for anyone interested in signing up for the machine.

With respect,
Samuel John Shoptaw
Post 10556
Service Officer
Boca Raton, Florida

Editor's Choice

Book Review ► “Long Daze at Long Binh”

“The humorous adventures of two Wisconsin draftees trained as combat medics and sent off to set up a field hospital in South Vietnam.”

If you're a Vietnam veteran like me, the book, "Long Daze at Long Binh" offers you a chance to sit down, drift back in time, and take an entertaining, cathartic, and therapeutic tour of Vietnam from the comfort and safety of your easy chair. It is a riveting and refreshing account of the amusing adventures and misadventures of two buddies who, together survived the draft, the Army, and a tour in Vietnam while frequently discovering inventive ways to “beat the system.” It's neither pro-war nor anti-war, so regardless of your personal views you should find it hard to put down. My only criticism is that it was too short (the book, not the war.)

The authors are kindred spirits who look back on it all with a positive attitude not often seen in other publications that dwell on sensationalism. Their down-to-earth, interactive dialogue makes you feel like you have reconnected with a long-lost buddy from 50 years ago. Reading “Long Daze at Long Binh” helped me find some constructive value in those lost years when my civilian life was so rudely put on hold.

I suspect many veterans spent years, as I did, harboring lingering doubts about their participation in that controversial and unpopular war. However, after reading about Steve's and Fred's experiences, I felt an uplifted sense of reprieve. The book is well written, very entertaining and highly informative (e.g., I never knew so many of us were in non-combatant roles.)

But far more important to me was the fact that I found it extremely cleansing and detoxifying. In an odd way, I gained a sense of vindication, realizing that we were only doing our best under extreme circumstances. It was my good fortune to stumble across this witty expose of behind-the-scenes military life in Vietnam, and I give it my full recommendation.

The interactive dialogue magically draws the reader into the story. At times, the authors speak as if you're in the room with them and they're involving you in their conversation. It's perfect for those inquisitive souls who'd like to sample the smorgasbord of military life in Vietnam without the horrific negative narrative they may get elsewhere. It's also great for those of us who've “been there, done that,” giving us a chance to relive (minus the suffering) that “missing year” of our lives when we first promised ourselves “I'm not sure how, but I'll get through this any way I can.” And yes, most of us got through it unscathed, but a little worse for wear. Some decades later, Steve and Fred have found a way to pick us up, dust us off, and help us see the light side that we may have forgotten. Often it just took a smile or a joke to ease the tension—and there are lots of them in this book.

There's also a funny line attributed to Bob Hope who said to the troops in Vietnam during one of his shows, "Remember that your country is behind you, 50 percent!" Having had children throw rocks at me when I was in uniform, for some reason, made me feel bad about myself. I thank Fred and Steve for helping to remove the stigma. But don't take my word for it. Check out their webpage (www.longbinhdaze.com) and take a look at the list of chapter titles, as well as the sample chapters you can read online. That should tell you whether you're likely to find it as entertaining and uplifting as I did. If so, get yourself a copy. You'll keep it for years and share it with others who really want to understand what you experienced.

And by all means, take the time to look up an old Army (or Navy or Air Force or Marine) buddy and say "Hi!"

[Source: Review by Mike Day | Vietnam veteran and former Commander of VFW Post 10556, Boca Raton, Florida]

Obit: Adrian Cronauer ► 18 JUL 2018 | Goood Morning, Vietnam

Adrian Cronauer, the man whose military radio antics inspired a character played by Robin Williams in the film "Good Morning, Vietnam," has died. He was 79. Mary Muse, the wife of his stepson Michael Muse, said 19 July that Cronauer died from an age-related illness. He had lived in Troutville, Virginia, and died at a local nursing home, she said. During his service as a U.S. Air Force sergeant in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966, Cronauer opened his Armed Forces Radio show "Dawnbuster" with the phrase, "Gooooood morning, Vietnam!" Williams made the refrain famous in the 1987 film, loosely based on Cronauer's time in Saigon.



Adrian Cronauer, a disc jockey in Vietnam for the Armed Forces Network, was beloved by many of the American troops who served in Vietnam.

The film was a departure from other Vietnam war movies that focused on bloody realism, such as the Academy Award-winning "Platoon." Instead, it was about irreverent youth in the 1960s fighting the military establishment. "We were the only game in town, and you had to play by our rules," Cronauer told The Associated Press in 1987. "But I wanted to serve the listeners." The military wanted conservative programming. American youths, however, were "not into drab, sterile announcements" with middle-of-the-road music, Cronauer said, and the battle over the airwaves was joined. In the film, Williams quickly drops Perry Como and Lawrence

Welk from his 6 a.m. playlist in favor of the Dave Clark Five.

Cronauer said he loved the movie but much of it was Hollywood make-believe. Robin Williams' portrayal as a fast-talking, nonconformist, yuk-it-up disc jockey sometimes gave people the wrong impression of the man who inspired the film. "Yes, I did try to make it sound more like a stateside station," he told The AP in 1989. "Yes, I did have problems with news censorship. Yes, I was in a restaurant shortly before the Viet Cong hit it. And yes, I did start each program by yelling, 'Good Morning, Vietnam!'" The rest is what he delicately called "good script crafting."

Cronauer left the Air Force as a sergeant in 1966 and eventually served as an adviser to the deputy assistant secretary of defense from 2001 to 2009,

When the film was released, the presidential campaign of Democrat Jesse Jackson called asking if Cronauer would help out. The conversation died quickly after Cronauer asked the caller if she realized he was a Republican. In 1992, George H. W. Bush's re-election campaign taped a TV ad slamming Bill Clinton's draft record. In the ad, Cronauer accused Clinton of lying. "In many ways, I'm a very conservative guy," he said. "A lifelong, card-carrying Republican can't be that much of an anti-establishment type."

Cronauer was from Pittsburgh, the son of a steelworker and a schoolteacher. After the military, he worked in radio, television and advertising. In 1979, Cronauer saw the film "Apocalypse Now" with his friend Ben Moses, who also served in Vietnam and worked at the Saigon radio station. "We said that's not our story of Vietnam," Moses recalled. "And we made a deal over a beer that we were going to have a movie called 'Good Morning, Vietnam.'" It wasn't easy. Hollywood producers were incensed at the idea of a comedy about Vietnam, said Moses, who co-produced the film. "I said, It's not a comedy - it's the sugar on top of the medicine," Moses said. Writer Mitch Markowitz made the film funny, and director Barry Levinson added the tragic-comedy aspect, Moses said. Williams' performance was nominated for an Oscar.

Moses said the film was a pivotal moment in changing the way Americans thought about the Vietnamese and the war. Muse, the wife of Cronauer's stepson, said the movie "helped open dialogue and discussion that had long been avoided." "He loved the servicemen and servicewomen all over the world and always made time to personally engage with them," she said. She added that he was "a loving and devoted husband to his late wife Jeane (as well as a) father, grandfather and great-grandfather." Cronauer attended the University of Pennsylvania's law school and went into the legal profession, working in communications law and later handling prisoner-of-war issues for the Pentagon. "I always was a bit of an iconoclast, as Robin (Williams) was in the

film," Cronauer told the AP in 1999. "But I was not anti-military, or anti-establishment. I was anti-stupidity. And you certainly do run into a lot of stupidity in the military."

[Source: Associated Press | Ben Finley, | July 19, 2018]

Drone Killer ► New 7 Pound w/Battery Shoulder-Fired Weapon

Current counter-drone tools often use large-scale blasts of power to take out the radio comms between the drone and the pilot. That requires a lot of battery and can jam or disrupt friendly frequencies. The Drone Killer, made by IXI Technology and displayed at this year's Warrior East Expo by ADS, Inc., hits both of those gaps and more. John Lopardo, adjunct director with IXI, explained that the shoulder-fired weapon weighs only 7 pounds, battery included, and has a range of 500 meters. "It's our line-of-sight solution," Lopardo said. Instead of shooting on a broad range of frequencies, the device has a "passive detector" that picks up what frequency the drone is using. Then it uses six distinct circuit boards to disrupt that specific frequency.



The method saves power, meaning less battery is needed. It also isolates the jamming to the right range, avoiding disruptions to friendly communication channels. The device also can disable frequency-hopping drone controllers, which wasn't a capability for past counter-drone devices. "It's not a broadband noise jammer," Lopardo said. "In the older systems, you had to send out a large amount of noise and you could interfere with friendly links in your area." Once hit, the drone begins to waver and either slowly drifts to the ground or returns to its controller. "Older drones just drop like stones," Lopardo said. The Drone Killer has been tested and confirmed at Camp Pendleton, California; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and at the Muscatatuck Training Center in Indiana, Lopardo said. To see it in operation refer to

<http://ixitech.com/2017/08/11/drone-killer-fox-news-august-2017> & <https://youtu.be/QgcMp0TVpLw>.

[Source: DefenseNews | Ken Chamberlain | July 2, 2018]

Air Force One Update ► Making It Great Again

Air Force One's baby blue color scheme is so last election. Instead, picture a star-spangled Boeing jet transporting the commander-in-chief through the sky for years to come. President Trump has confirmed reports that he wants to make big changes to the iconic fleet of Boeing jets. "Boeing gave us a good deal. And we were able to take that," Trump told CBS Evening News. "But I said, 'I wonder if we should use the same baby blue colors?' And we're not." The 45th president wants to do away with the blue color scheme that's donned Air Force One jets since 1962 with President John F. Kennedy. "Red, white and blue," Trump told CBS. "Air Force One is going to be incredible. It's gonna be the top of the line, the top in the world. And it's gonna be red, white and blue, which I think is appropriate."

The custom presidential jets were originally designed with a red and gold color scheme, but JFK worked with a French industrial designer to create the blue color scheme we see today, according to the New England Historical Society. The Air Force on 17 July formally awarded Boeing a \$3.9 billion fixed-price contract to design, test and deliver two presidential aircraft by 2024, a deal that had been informally reached with the president in February. A statement from the White House Office of the Press Secretary said the deal would save taxpayers more than "\$1.4 billion from the initially proposed \$5.3 billion cost-plus contract," although numerous media reports had pegged the cost at closer to \$4 billion, meaning a savings closer to a few hundred million dollars at most.



One artist's rendering of what a future Air Force One could possibly, maybe, potentially look like. 😊

Although the new Air Force One jets won't be ready until 2024, the last year of Trump's presidency if he is re-elected, Trump wants future presidents to enjoy this new paint job for years to come. "I hate to say this, it's gonna be a long time," Trump said. "It's a very complex project. But by the time it gets built, you're gonna have many presidents, hopefully, use it and enjoy it."

[Source: AirForceTimes | Charlsy Panzino | July 17, 2018]

Briefing

Scams in Florida ► Protecting the Military and Vets

Scam artists target our servicemembers and veterans every day, and we must do everything to increase awareness about top scams that impact those who serve our country. With more than 1.5 million veterans and more than 96,000 active and reserve members calling Florida home, it's important that we help empower our heroes and their families to safeguard their finances.

Florida CFO Jimmy Patronis' office works diligently through the **Financial Frontlines** program to ensure Florida's military communities are informed and aware of scams specifically targeted towards active-duty servicemembers and veterans alike. The Financial Frontlines program is a tool that can help you recognize identity theft, credit card scams, predatory lending, mortgage relief scams, and so much more.

Although these scams can happen to anyone, research shows veterans are twice as likely to be targeted for scams. The best way to defend against fraud is to be informed and report any financial fraud issues as soon as possible.



To learn more about Florida's Financial Frontlines program, go to <https://www.myfloridacfo.com/ymm/FinancialFrontlines/>.

[Source: Jimmy Patronis | Florida's Chief Financial Officer | July 27, 2018]

Vet Death Preps ► What To Do Before A Veteran Dies

One of the eventualities in life that spouses and families of veterans face is the death of their loved one who served America in uniform. To help ease the burden on loved ones, veterans can make useful preparations in advance. The first step is to make certain the family has easy access to important documents such as:

- The veteran's discharge certificate (DD form 214)
- VA documents, if any, indicating a VA claim number
- A copy of all marriage certificates and divorce decrees (if any previous marriages)
- Insurance policies, including beneficiary designation
- A copy of the family will (not required for VA benefits)
- Location of safety deposit boxes (not required by VA)

- Business address, email address, office and cell phone numbers for local VFW or American Legion service officer.

Veterans who die on active duty, or with discharges that are other than dishonorable, are entitled by law to:

- A gravesite in any national cemetery with available space, opening and closing of the grave
- A government headstone, marker, urn, or medallion in a national and/or private cemetery
- A government-issued U.S. flag to drape over the casket, and for presentation to the surviving spouse or next-of-kin
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate signed by the president of the United States.

The following are more details on a few of the entitlements listed above:

- **Burial in a VA National Cemetery**

Burial benefits in a VA national cemetery include the following: gravesite, headstone, marker or medallion, opening and closing of the grave, and perpetual care of the grave site. Many national cemeteries have columbaria or gravesites for cremated remains. Gravesites in national cemeteries cannot be reserved. Many national cemeteries are closed to new casket interments. Funeral directors or others making burial arrangements must apply at the time of death.

Spouses and minor children of eligible veterans and of servicemembers may also be buried in a national cemetery. If a surviving spouse of an eligible veteran marries a nonveteran, and remarriage was terminated by death or divorce of the non-veteran, the spouse is subsequently eligible for burial in a national cemetery. Visit the National Cemetery Administration website at www.cem.va.gov for a listing of all national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries. Send questions on benefits eligibility to VA at public.inquiry@mail.va.gov.

- **Headstone Inscriptions and Symbols**

VA rules allow for custom inscriptions on headstones. Belief symbols such as Christian Crosses, Stars of David, Islamic Crescents and others are available. However, VA has limited other graphics such as logos, military decorations and fraternal organization marks. The best way to assure that you get the desired stone or plaque is by obtaining and filling out VA Form 40-1330 (Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans Cemetery) and filing it with other documents. When a spouse or child is buried in the same grave as a veteran, VA will have a contractor inscribe the reverse side of the headstone. Twenty-year reservists are eligible for a headstone or marker.

• **Burial Flag**

A U.S. flag is provided, at no cost, to drape over the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran's military service. Eligibility for former members of Selected Reserves were added by Section 517 of Public Law 105-261. The flag will be issued once only for burial purposes and will not be replaced if lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed. National cemeteries with avenues of flags, and many state veterans cemeteries, accept donations of burial flags for mass display on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and other occasions. The standard issue burial flag is made of cotton and will not withstand continuous outdoor display. Burial flags may be obtained at VA regional offices, national cemeteries and most local post offices. Overseas, U.S. flags can be obtained from U.S. embassies or consulates.

For more information on any of these subjects, contact the VA and refer to the publication listed in the source below.

[Source: American Legion | A Guide for Pre-Planning | July 23, 2018]

Security Update ► Beware of the Wi-Fi | Not Secure

Do you hop on the public Wi-Fi connection every time you wait around at an airport? Beware that there is a big — and potentially costly — danger if you use that connection like it was your personal internet connection at home. Publicly accessible networks — like those airports offer — are not secure. They generally lack security measures such as protected passwords or encryption. In short, using a public Wi-Fi network can put you at risk of hacking or identity theft. Some public networks are less secure than others, though.

The trouble with public Wi-Fi networks

We tend to think of our online activities like checking email or accessing cloud storage as private. After all, accessing email and other personal accounts requires us to enter a password. But others can access the information like passwords that you enter while on a public network. As Fran Rosch, an executive vice president at cybersecurity company Symantec explained last year, “What someone thinks is private on their personal device can easily be accessed by cybercriminals through unsecure Wi-Fi networks”

Symantec further explains in “Protect Your Data — Critical Things to Know About Public and Hotel Wi-Fi”: “Being on public Wi-Fi is a lot like having a conversation in a crowded room. The chances of being overheard by the people around you are high. When you send information over an unsecured Wi-Fi network, it's sent without the extra

layer of security or encryption that a private, secured network offers, so it's relatively easy for hackers to access the information you type and send, including your login and password information.” So, while it may be convenient to hop on an airport's network, ask yourself whether it's worth the security risk. And at the least, refrain from accessing your bank, credit card or other financial accounts while on a public network.

[Source: MoneyTalksNews | Karla Bowsher | July 22, 2018]

Interesting Notes

- **ISIS.** The Islamic State's once-grand and terrorizing hold of Syria is down to just a small patch of land about 20 miles by six miles along the Euphrates River and is expected to fall within just a few months, a top French commander involved in operations there said 24 JUL. The U.S. has repeatedly said it is only in Syria to fight ISIS, however last week National Security Adviser John Bolton suggested U.S. troops would stay in country to stem Iranian influence.
- **White House.** The White House will no longer tell the public when Donald Trump speaks to foreign heads of government. It did not respond to a request for comment on how it will report the president's calls with foreign leaders. As long as silence is the policy, any foreign leader—or comedian—will be able to claim they've spoken to Trump and agreed, or disagreed, about any issue. Unless there are more tapes.
- **Iran.** Iran's currency has plunged to another record low, dropping past 100,000 rials to the US dollar, as Iranians brace for 7 AUG when the United States is due to reimpose the first batch of sanctions on their economy.
- **Reward.** Army Criminal Investigation Command and the FBI have teamed up on the investigation of a spouse who was found dead in her home near Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia, while her husband was deployed to South Korea. Authorities are offering up to a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction in the 10 JUL murder of Abree Boykin, 24, according to a 30 JUL release from CID.
- **Bahrain.** The military is raising the minimum drinking age for service members and Defense Department personnel in Bahrain to 21 years old.

[Source: Various | July 31, 2018]

Have You Heard ▶ Tickling Your Funny Bone

Memories from another era—not so distant though



"I need a couple guys what don't owe me no money for a little routine patrol."



"I calls her Florence Nightingale."

Lexophile describes those who have a love for words, such as "You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish," or "To write with a broken pencil is pointless." An annual competition is held by the New York Times to see who can create the best original lexophile. Here are some of the submissions:

- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- If you don't pay your exorcist, you can get repossessed.

- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Did you hear about the crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.
- I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.
- He had a photographic memory, but it was never fully developed.
- When she saw her first strands of gray hair she thought she'd dye.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
- Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.

Finally—

What's the difference between a duck and George Washington? — **Answer:** One has a bill on its face and the other has its face on a bill.



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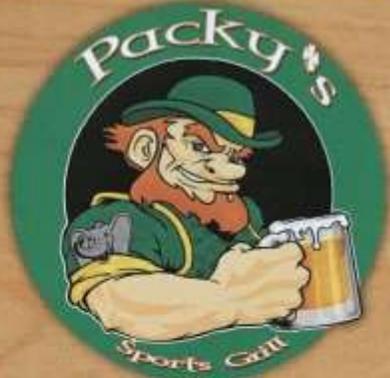
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