



## Veterans of the Vietnam War

P.O. Box 2113, Middletown, Connecticut 06457-2113



### “PEOPLE WHO CARE”

Volume 22, Issue 8

NEWSLETTER

October 2008

**Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. @ the Legion Hall.**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

#### **October Meeting**

This Month's Meeting is on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Middletown. (Bernie O'Rourke Drive)

### **CHAPTER NEWS**

As of September 2008, we have a total membership of 82. 21 Regular members, 52 Life members, and 9 Honorary members.

This now brings up that dreaded issue that comes around each and every year.

Dues are payable at the beginning of the year. \$12.00 per year or \$100.00 for life membership.

Make Checks out to:  
**VVW MIDDLETOWN**

Mail Checks to:  
**VVW MIDDLETOWN**

**P.O. BOX 2113**  
**MIDDLETOWN, CT.**  
**06457-2113**

### **CHAPTER DRAWING**

The name drawn at the last meeting for \$100.00 was Tom Clayton.

Unfortunately Tom was not at the meeting which means the money was returned to the kitty and another \$10.00 added which will make the October 7th drawing total \$110.00.

Don't miss out on the chance of taking home the jackpot. Come to the meetings, it's the only way you can win.

### **WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP**

There was talk about having a trip to Washington D.C. for Veterans Day this year.

However, Veterans Day falls on a Tuesday this year and many of us are still working which would make going for four or five days a bit difficult.

Members at the meeting were talking of going on Memorial Day instead. We need your

thoughts and input about this date.

We need to know how many would be interested in going over Memorial Day weekend to see if we have enough people to charter a motor coach to transport us.

Please come to the meeting to discuss this or contact Jack Mayoros to let us know if you want to go to D.C. in May.

### **MOVING WALL**

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam Traveling Wall and it is coming to Rentschler Field, East Hartford, CT. from October 15<sup>th</sup> to October 19<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. a special performance by the elite Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment including the U.S. Marine Color Guard, Silent Drill Team, and Drum & Bugle Corps will be held inside the Football field.

Seating will start at 6:30 p.m. on a first come, first served basis.



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Did you ever think that this would come to be????

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## [The American Legion Applauds VA Move to Award Benefits to More Vets with Lou Gehrig's Disease](#)

Posted: 24 Sep 2008 08:23 AM CDT

The American Legion is expressing strong support for a new rule that offers monetary and medical benefits to a greater number of military veterans who have contracted amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Studies have shown that military veterans are more susceptible to ALS than members of the general population.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published an interim final rule in the Federal Register today establishing a presumption of service connection for ALS for any veteran with at least 90 continuous days of active duty service who develops the disease any time after separation from service. An older rule had established a presumption of service connection with the disease for veterans who developed ALS within a year of their separation from service.

ALS is a rare and fatal neurological degenerative disease with no known cause or cure. The strongly identified link between military service and the disease remains a mystery.

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The new regulation is effective immediately and applies to all applications for benefits received by VA on or after September 23, 2008. The regulation also applies to claims pending before VA or one of the various appellate courts on the effective date of the interim final rule.

“The American Legion has long supported an indefinite presumption for ALS and we applaud the Secretary’s decision to finally create this overdue regulation,” said National Commander David Rehbein.

One of the first indications of a link between military service and an increased incidence of ALS among veterans came in 2001 when pre-published research suggested that 1991 Gulf War veterans are twice as likely as their non-deployed counterparts to develop the disease. Subsequently, a 2005 Harvard University study stated that men and women with any history of military service in the last century are at a nearly 60% greater risk of the disease than men and women who did not serve in the military.

Concurrently, at the request of VA, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) conducted a review of the few existing peer-reviewed studies on ALS in the veteran population to ascertain if, indeed, an association exists between military service and the development of ALS and to make recommendations, if an association is indicated, that would help to identify risk factors. In the IOM report released in 2006, entitled Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis in Veterans: Review of the Scientific Literature, the IOM Committee concluded that there was a limited and suggestive association between the development of ALS and military service.

“Although more research needs to be conducted to identify possible military-related risk factors that cause ALS in veterans, the IOM’s determination that there is suggestive evidence of an association provided the evidence and justification necessary for VA to make benefits available on a presumptive basis for those whose service in the military may have caused the disease to develop,” added Rehbein.

The American Legion is hopeful that future research will identify the risk factors that make service members more susceptible to this horrific disease. Identifying these risk factors will help in determining necessary protective measures that could prevent the illness from ever developing in veterans.

Veterans diagnosed with ALS, including those whose claims were denied in the past, or the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of ALS, are encouraged to contact their American Legion service officer for more information or assistance with filing a claim by calling 800-433-3318.



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**Connecticut Veterans War Time Service Medal**

“The Commissioner of Veterans’ Affairs in conjunction with the Adjutant General shall award a ribbon and medal to each veteran who served in time of war, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes, and who either (1) was a resident of Conn. at the time he or she was called to active duty for such service, or (2) is domiciled in this state on the date of such award. Contact: **Department of Veterans’ Affairs**, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

860-529-2571  
1-800-550-0000  
Fax: 860-721-5919

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**MAIL TO:**

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