

Putnam Veterans SITREP



AN E-MAIL SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY

A CALL TO HONOR: The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Replica

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a monument dedicated to American service members who have died without their remains being identified. It is located in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, adjacent to Fort Myer just across the Memorial Bridge from Washington, D.C.

This replica is owned and managed by the Americanism Committee of the Exchange Club of Rome, Ga. It was constructed by Phillip Burkhalter Builders of Rome, which is owned by a member of our club. It was constructed after their regular work hours. The materials involved in its construction were pine, composite materials, carbon-fiber sheets for added strength, aluminum framing, and retractable wheels for ease in moving.

It is the hope of the Exchange Club of Rome and the National Exchange Club that the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform are never forgotten, for without their supreme sacrifice of their lives, and in the case of the unknowns, their identity, our way of life would not be possible!

Please save the dates September 21st-25th. These three memorials will be at Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park. The displays will be to honor our Heroes. Please watch for more information.

Karl



The Cost of Freedom Tribute Includes:

- Traveling Vietnam Tribute
- Afghanistan & Iraq Warrior Tribute
- 9/11 Tribute
- WWI
- WWII
- Korean War
- Cold War
- USS Pueblo
- Iran Hostage
- El Salvador War
- USMC Beirut
- El Dorado Canyon
- USS Stark Attack
- Panama Invasion
- Desert Storm
- Desert Shield
- Somalia
- Khobar Towers Bomb
- USS Cole Attack
- Fort Hood Attack



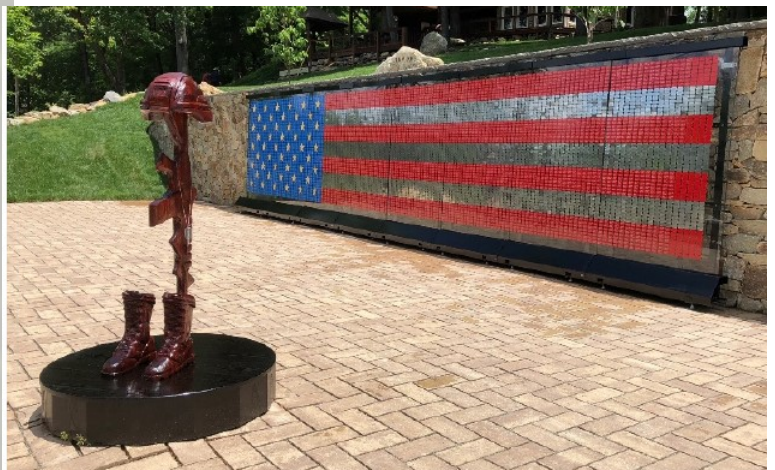
COST OF FREEDOM TRIBUTE

On Memorial Day 2018, VAU completed our traveling Global War on Terror (GWOT) Memorial Flag. Our small way of honoring close to 7000 GWOT fallen heroes and gold star families. We hope to raise awareness of the sacrifice paid by our nations heroes that keep this country free and flying under one flag.

This 28 foot wide by 6 foot tall American flag symbolizes the shape of the flag when draped on a fallen service members casket. It is formed of approximately 7000 dog tags of all those who have fallen in the War on Terror. There are 50 gold stars honoring all gold star families nationwide.

Displayed in front of the flag is a battle field cross sculpted from mahogany wood by veteran artist Alicia Dietz.

Tags are in alphabetical order ranging from 11SEPT 2001 to 31Dec 2019; thereafter the tags are in chronological order of the date Killed in Action (KIA). Sadly, as the war continues we will continue to fill in the blank tags at the end of the flag.

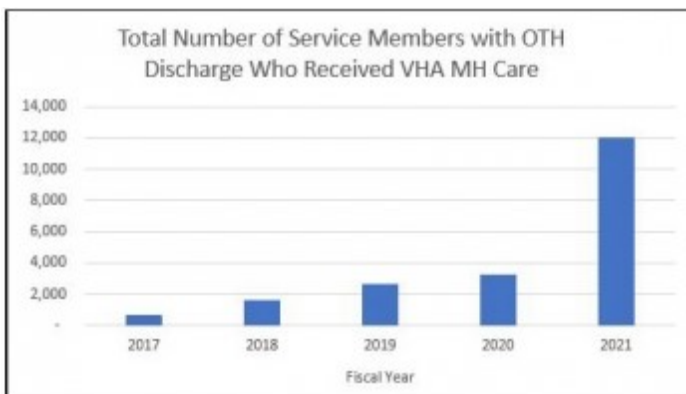




Choose VA

In FY 2021, VA provided 270% more mental health visits to former service members with an other-than-honorable (OTH) discharge compared to FY 2020. The available services cover the full continuum of VA mental health care, including outpatient care, residential rehabilitation care and acute inpatient psychiatric hospitalization. This marked increase was due to a number of factors.

First, in 2017, VA began providing emergency mental health coverage for former service members with OTH administrative discharges. In 2018, Public Law 115-141 authorized VA to provide an initial mental health assessment and subsequent mental or behavioral health care services to certain former service members. This included those who served in the reserve component.



Following the expansion of eligibility criteria beginning in FY 2017, VA began seeing gradual increases in the number of former service members with OTH who seek VA mental health services. In FY 2018, 1,651 former service members with an OTH discharge received mental health treatment, three times more than the 648 treated in 2017.

In 2019, VA – in collaboration with the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security – introduced [VA Solid Start](#) to proactively contact all newly separated service members at least three times during their first year of transition from the military. The goal of VA Solid Start is to establish a strong relationship between the VA and transitioning service members, promoting awareness of VA benefits, services and partner resources available to them.

To reduce the suicide rate among Veterans and service members, VA hopes to make mental health care as widely available as possible. VA has the greatest respect for the men and women who have served in our nation's Armed Forces and it will not relent in efforts to provide lifesaving support to those who are experiencing an emotional or mental health crisis.

How to access services

- Former service members may decide when they are in distress and require emergency mental health care.
- A VA provider will assess the patient to determine whether or not it is a mental health emergency and requires immediate attention.
- Former service members may enter the system to use the emergency services benefit by visiting a [VA emergency room or Vet Center](#), or by calling the [Veterans Crisis Line](#). Former service members may be treated using VA's tentative eligibility authority but will still need to have their claim adjudicated by the Veterans Benefits Administration. If the former service member is subsequently found not to be eligible, they can be billed for services.

In addition, VA is working to increase awareness for service members with OTH discharges, seeking to educate them on eligibility for benefits and services, despite the character of discharge (COD) assigned at separation.

Too often, Veterans self-select away from VA thinking the OTH discharge makes them ineligible for VA benefits and services. However, in some instances, they may still be found eligible to receive health care and/or compensation. Over the past three years, VA's eligibility determination rate for OTH Veterans has been above 72% in granting Veterans access to benefits and/or health care. VA continues to encourage Veterans to [apply](#), regardless of their COD, and let VA determine eligibility.



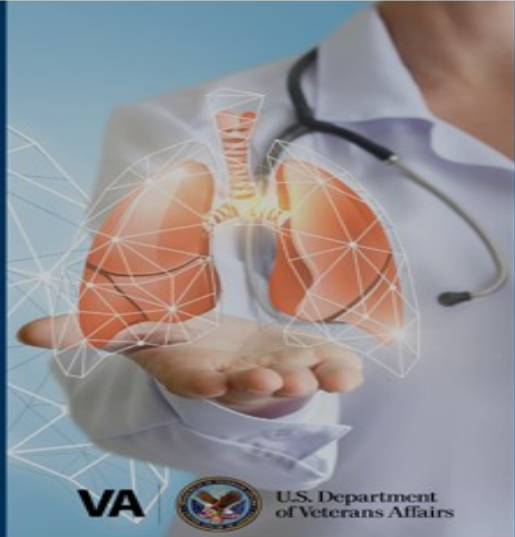


VA intends to propose

9

rare respiratory
cancers as presumed
service-connected
conditions

**If you have one of these conditions
please call this office
For an appointment
845-808-1620**



Dear Veteran,

The Department of Veterans Affairs will propose adding certain rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities in relation to military environmental exposure to particulate matter. When the proposal becomes final, dependents, survivors, and Veterans who had claims previously denied for any of the below respiratory cancers would be encouraged to file a supplemental claim for benefits.

- Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the larynx;
- SCC of the trachea;
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea;
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea;
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung;

- Large cell carcinoma of the lung;
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung;
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung and;
Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

Any Veteran who had one of these cancers manifest to a degree of 0% or more at any time during or after separation would become eligible for service-connection.

VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations. VA will invite and consider public comments as part of this

process. The publication date of the federal register will occur in the coming weeks.

Once rulemaking is complete, VA will conduct outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility.

The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

If you are a Veteran who has been diagnosed with one of these conditions, but have not filed a claim, please notify VA of your intent to file a claim.



Veterans Benefit Dinner

Saturday, April 9th, 2022

5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

\$50.00 per Person

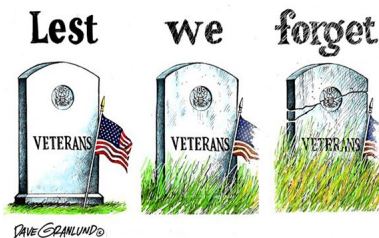
Make checks payable to: *German American Social Club*

Bavarian Schnitzel Dinner
Full Cash Bar Available
Entertainment provided by Joe Unger

The NET Proceeds will be donated to:
Putnam County Joint Veterans Council
with stipulation for the AVTT Traveling Wall

Hosted by the
German-American Social Club of Peekskill NY
 11 Kramers Pond Road
 Putnam Valley, NY 10579
www.gac1936.com

LIMITED SEATING THIS IS A PREPAID EVENT NO REFUNDS NO WALK-INS
 If you cannot attend, donations are most welcome!
 Call Anna Schramek @ 845-224-5855 after 4 PM for reservation



DAVE GRANLUND ©



DONALD B. SMITH GOVERNMENT CAMPUS
110 OLD ROUTE 6, BLDG. #3
CARMEL NY 10512
MONDAY—FRIDAY 9-5
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT EITHER LOCATION
845-808-1620

KARL ROHDE, DIRECTOR
ART HANLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR






Senator
Pete Harckham
40th Senate District

★ ★ ★

NYS SENATOR PETE HARCKHAM & THE NYS LEGISLATURE TO RECOGNIZE

Vietnam War Veterans Day

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Senator Harckham is **sponsoring a trip** to the NYS Capitol for Vietnam War Veterans Day. Breakfast/lunch will be provided, trip to Albany, the Capitol Building & a special recognition by the State Legislature.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TUESDAY

MARCH 29, 2022

Please RSVP or for details contact Benjamin Young 845-225-3025
bayoung@nysenate.gov

★ ★ ★

The Bulletin Board



SECOND CHANCE FOODS

Roast Chicken w/ Maple Butter and Herbs



30-70 min
Cook & Prep Time



4
Servings



Healthier Choice

Ingredients:

- 3.5 Lbs • Bone-in Chicken of choice
- 2.5 Tsp • Herbs
- 4 Tbs • Butter
- 2 Tbs • Maple Syrup
- Salt and Pepper
- Assorted Vegetables (see note)

Steps:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Preheat cast iron skillet if using.
2. Pat the chicken dry and season with Salt and Pepper.
3. Melt butter and add herbs and maple syrup, heat until mixture thickens slightly 1-2 min.
4. Place chicken in pan of choice, spoon mixture over chicken, covering evenly.

Kitchen Notes

- **Use what you have** - You can use any fresh herbs you have on hand like Thyme, Rosemary, Bay leaf, Sage or a combination. Though we love fresh herbs, you can always substitute dried 1TB fresh herbs = 1tsp dried. For this recipe start with 1/4 tsp of your favorite dried herb and season to taste.
- **Make it a meal!** Adding root vegetables make this a great one pan meal- You can use any root veggie like carrot, turnip, parsnip, potatoes of any variety, beet, celeriac, kohlrabi, even radish! Onion, garlic, green beans, broccoli and squash also roast well but don't take as long. Cut veggies larger if roasting with whole chicken and smaller if roasting on a sheet pan.

Whole Chicken (Roasting pan or cast iron skillet)

5. Baste with pan juices every 15-20 min until golden brown and the thickest part of thigh reaches 165-170 degrees (about 55 to 60 min).
6. Remove from oven and baste once more, rest at least 10 min. before carving.

Veggie Note: Onions and root vegetables and can roast with chicken the whole time, add other veggies (broccoli, green bean, summer squash, etc) about halfway through.

Chicken Pieces Bone-In (Sheet pan with lip or cast iron skillet)

5. Baste with pan juices after 15 min and begin to check temperature after 30 min. until thickest pieces reach 165-170 degrees.
6. Remove from oven and baste once more, rest at least 10 min. before serving. Continue to cook vegetables as needed while chicken rests.



Our friend Martha Elder of "Second Chance Foods" has been working tirelessly with her staff to help feed those in need in Putnam County. Here is one of her wonderful recipes.

Please think about a Donation to Second Chance Foods. Thanks. Karl