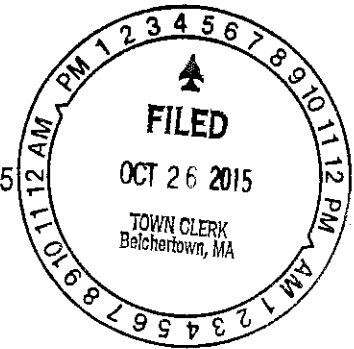


Title: Veteran's Services Advisory Board

15 Oct 2015



From: Veteran's Agent

Subject: Meeting Minutes – 15 October 2015

1. The fortieth meeting of the Veteran's Services Advisory Board (VSAB) was called to order at 6:00 p.m., 20 August 2015, in the VSA office area.

**2. Members in attendance were:**

Mr. Ray Janke	Mr. Bill Bowen	Ms. Madeleine Hamparian- BHS President of Student Council
Ms. Jan Jourdain	Mr. Bill McClure	Mr. Anthony McAvoy- New American Legion Commander
Mr. Edward Dice	Selectman Archie Archible	Mr. Alec Walker- BHS VP of Student Council

**Members Absent were:**

Mr. Gerry Desilets	Mr. Vincent Viglione
Mr. Larry Raines	

**3. Old Business:**

- Mr. Janke and the committee reviewed the Purple Heart Town designation vote. (CLOSED)
- Mr. Janke shared with the committee the outcome of the Belchertown Parade Committee letter. (CLOSED)
- Mr. Janke and the committee reviewed the Selectman's decision on the ESGR request. (OPEN)

**4. New Business:**

- The upcoming Veteran's Day agenda and activities were reviewed and discussed. Minor changes were made to the Sentinel article, the order of events at the High School, and the gathering location for participants at the Town Common. (OPEN)
- Mr. Janke introduced Mr. Anthony McAvoy, the new American Legion Commander for Belchertown Post 239. Paperwork will be sent to the Board of Selectman stating his appointment as a member of this committee. (OPEN)
- Mr. Viglione informed the Veterans' Agent that the Town Common flags would be inspected and changed, if necessary, just prior to Veteran's Day. (OPEN)

**5. Public Input/Concerns/Comments:**

- Ms. Madeleine Hamparian and Mr. Alec Walker from the BHS Student Council briefed the group on the upcoming assembly on November 10, 2015 at the BHS auditorium starting at 08:30 a.m. to honor our veterans in Town.

**6. Good of the VSAB:**

- Mr. Janke briefed on the group of veterans suing the Army over chemical testing and the brochure for the Holyoke Community College Veterans Day Celebration planned for Wednesday, November 4, 2015.

7. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. All documents that were provided during the meeting will be attached to the original minutes on file in the Town Clerk's office. The next meeting will be held at the call of the chairperson.

Vincent Viglione  
VSAB Recording Secretary

Approved  
*Ray Janke*  
Ray Janke  
Veteran's Service Agent  
Co-Chairperson

Cc: Town Clerk  
Town Administrator  
Board of Selectman  
Committee members



## Veterans' Services Advisory Board Meeting Notice

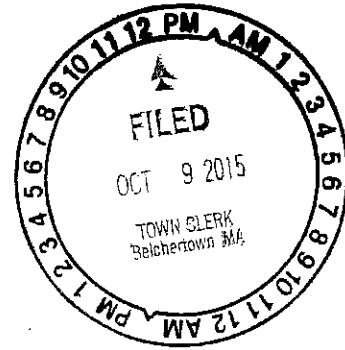
**Meeting Date: 10-15-2015**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

**Location: Adjacent to Veterans' Agents Office**

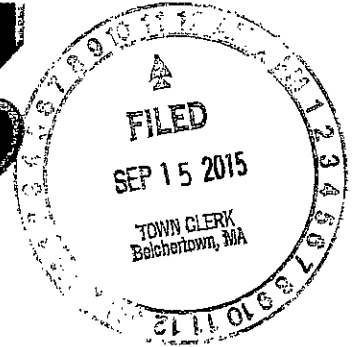
**Agenda:**

- #1 Old Business
  - #1a Purple Heart Town update
  - #1b VSAB Statement of Support for ESGR Program update
  - #1c Letter to the Belchertown Parade Committee update
- #2 New business
  - #2a Veterans' Day planning/coordination 2015
  - #2b Veterans' Day press release review
- #3 Public input/concerns
- #4 Good of the VSAB





**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN  
PROCLAMATION  
PURPLE HEART TOWN**



**WHEREAS**, the people of the Town of Belchertown have great admiration and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served their country and this community in the Armed Forces for the good of all; and

**WHEREAS**, contributions and sacrifices of the men and women from Belchertown who served in harm's way in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedom and the way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, many citizens in our community have been killed in action while serving in the Armed Forces and have been Posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for their ultimate sacrifice ; and

**WHEREAS**, many of our citizens have been awarded the Purple Heart for their bodily sacrifice of being wounded in action while engaged in combat; and

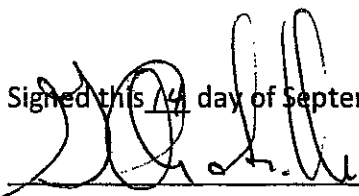
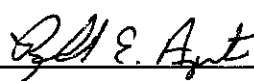
**WHEREAS**, the Purple Heart is the oldest American military decoration in present use and was initially created as The Badge of Military Merit on August 7, 1782 in Newburgh, New York by General George Washington; The award was made of purple cloth, shaped as a heart with the "Merit" sewn upon it; and


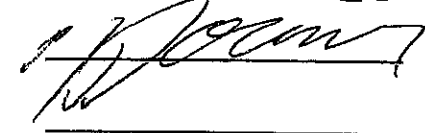
**WHEREAS**, August 7 is nationally recognized as Purple Heart Appreciation Day; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED**, We the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Belchertown Community, go on record to hereby proclaim Belchertown, Massachusetts a Purple Heart Town, honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform that were wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans.

**ALSO, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, We the Town of Belchertown will recognize August 7<sup>th</sup> annually as Purple Heart Day, and urge the people and organizations in Belchertown to display the American Flag as well as other public expressions of recognition for our Purple Heart recipients.

Signed this 14 day of September, Two Thousand and Fifteen

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William R. Bennett  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
G. E. A. Apt

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

## VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

- ⊕ 90-120 days in advance: send invitations to all government (federal, state, local) officials to attend.
- ⊕ 60-90 days in advance: procure guest speaker. Coordinate with B'town HS/Superintendent re: need of auditorium, coffee (Large pot), juice (5 gallon container), and janitorial cost...
- ⊕ 30-60 days in advance: coordinate with B'town Police, EMS, A.L. Auxiliary for food distribution
- ⊕ 1 and 2 weeks in advance: run articles in The Sentinel, Gazette, Republican. (TV stations too; channel 22, 40, and 5)

## DAY' PROGRAM

**0900:** Gathering at the Town common for a short ceremony.

**0930:** Start short ceremony at the Town common to remember and salute the veterans no longer present because of their supreme sacrifice. (Flag full staffed, short speech: Today we give thanks for the Veterans that gave their lives/are fallen...and, TAPS played)

AT BHS AUDITORIUM 11:11 a.m. SHARP--4 rings of bell

- ★ MC—"Please Stand and remove your hats", commands "Present the Colors", Colors, EXCEPT BRANCH FLAGS proceed (in formation at right shoulder arms) from rear of auditorium to station in formation in front of stage. Color Guard remains at attention at right shoulder arms.
- ★ "STAR SPANGLED BANNER"-CHCS Band
- ★ Opening prayer- Belchertown clergy
- ★ MC- "Please join together in our Pledge of Allegiance"--
- ★ MC command "Secure the Colors". Colors placed in floor stands, Color Guard retires to seats.  
MC- "Please be seated"
- ★ MC acknowledges dignitaries in attendance:
- ★ MC opening statement
- ★ Presentation and stationing of U.S. Military SERVICE FLAGS.
  - MC invites veterans in audience--"Today we join together as a family in thanks to those that answered the call of their country to serve in military service. At this time I would like to introduce some of these Americans. I ask that if you served in the service of the flag presented as its song begins, please stand, and remain standing, as the CHCS choir under the direction of ??? sings "The Armed Forces Medley" and the service flags are stationed."
  - Choir Song-US military branch song medley w/ branch flags stationed. Song Order; 1.US Army, 2.USMC, 3.US Navy, 4.USAF, 5.USCG, 6. Merchant Marine  
(Correct formal order to station/position flags: 1.US Army, 2.USMC, 3.US Navy, 4.USAF, 5.USCG, 6. Merchant Marine)
  - Pause—MC "Lest we forget- there is one more flag, please stand"
    - Song- "REMEMBER YOU", POW/MIA flag stationed UNANNOUNCED
- ★ MC invites audience to join together to sing - "GOD BLESS AMERICA"
- ★ MC "Please be seated"
- ★ MC's- introduction of CHCS band- under the direction of **Mr. Jason Mosall** praise/thanks
- ★ MC introduces Guest speaker: **US Air Force Lieutenant Colonel James Bishop, retired**
- ★ MC Closing and thanks. Invitation to refreshments in cafeteria served by members of the Belchertown Veterans Council.
- ★ Closing prayer- by Belchertown clergy
- ★ MC--"Color Guard, station to Colors"
- ★ MC --"retire the colors" (Color Guard depart auditorium with flags).
- ★ Departing song by the CHCS choir.

Estimated time of ceremony 45-60 minutes

# VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY

## ORDER OF EVENTS

### BELCHERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL VETERAN'S MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

Wednesday, NOVEMBER 11, 2015

- 11:00 AM RINGING OF THE BELL
- POSTING OF THE COLORS
- "STAR SPANGLED BANNER" – CHCS Band directed by Mr. Jason Mosall?
- INVOCATION PRAYER – XXXX?
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- OPENING REMARKS – Ray Janke, Belchertown Veterans' Agent
- Any Government Officials: XXX opening remarks
- ARMED FORCES MEDLEY – CHCS Chorus directed by Mr. Josh Guerraz?
  - PRESENTATION OF SERVICE FLAGS
- "AMAZING GRACE" – CHCS Chorus
  - PRESENTATION OF MIA FLAG
- Any Government Officials: XXX additional remarks
- "GOD BLESS AMERICA" – CHCS BAND
- KEYNOTE SPEAKER – Lieutenant Colonel James Bishop, Retired, U.S. Air Force
- "SALUTE TO AMERICA" Combined CHCS Band & CHORUS
- BENEDICTION – XXXX?
- CLOSING REMARKS – Ray Janke
- RETRIEVAL OF COLORS

**For Immediate Release  
October 23, 2015**

**Contact: Ray Janke  
Phone: 413-323-0409**

**\*\*\*Press Advisory\*\*\***

**2015 Belchertown Veterans' Day Events:**

Belchertown Veterans' Day Ceremony set for Wednesday, November 11, 2015

The Belchertown Veterans' Agent announces the 2015 Veterans' Day ceremonies will take place on Wednesday, November 11, 2015. The Town ceremony will start at 9:30 am taking place at the Town Common to honor the veterans who are memorialized there. At 11:00 am there will be a ceremony in Veterans' Memorial Auditorium at Belchertown High School to honor all veterans. All citizens of Belchertown and the surrounding communities, especially all those who have served in the military and/or the merchant marines, are invited to attend to pay tribute to our veterans. The Jabish Brook and Chestnut Hill Community School Band and Chorus will perform. Guest speaker will be US Air Force Lieutenant Colonel James Bishop, retired. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

Veterans' Day, originally Armistice Day, is a day established by the U.S. Congress as a national holiday to honor all Americans who have served in the U.S. military at any time, not just during a period of war. On this day Americans thank all living and deceased veterans for their sacrifices and service to their country.

## Veterans Sue Army over Chemical Testing

Week of September 14, 2015

Veterans who were used in chemical and biological testing from 1922 to 1975 have filed a class action lawsuit against the U. S. Army. If they are successful, the Army will have to explain to anyone who was used in testing exactly what substances they were given and any known risks.

The Army would also have to provide those veterans with health care for any illnesses that result, in whole or in part, from the testing. The law firm representing the veterans estimates at least 70,000 troops were used in the testing, including World War II veterans exposed to mustard gas.

In June, an appeals court ruled in favor of the veterans. The Army has filed for a rehearing. For more information, visit the Military.com website and the Morrison Foerster website at:

[edgewoodtestvets.org/press-releases/pdfs/20090107-Morrison-Files-Suit.pdf](http://edgewoodtestvets.org/press-releases/pdfs/20090107-Morrison-Files-Suit.pdf)

**HOLYOKE  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE**

As a respected member of the military and  
veteran community, you are invited to attend  
Holyoke Community College's

*Veterans Day*  
Celebration 2015

Wednesday, November 4, 2015  
Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation  
Holyoke Community College  
11:00am – 12:30pm

Program Includes

Hosted by Ray Hershel of WGGB 40  
US Marines Presentation of the Colors  
Guest speakers including HCC student veterans  
Presentation: Combat Wounded Veteran Challenge  
Performance of *Amber Waves* by Tod Howarth  
Performance by Livio Gravini and Michael Dionne  
Reception and refreshments to follow

RSVP to Liz Golen at [egolen@hcc.edu](mailto:egolen@hcc.edu) or (413) 552-2418  
or Ed Dice [edice419@hcc.edu](mailto:edice419@hcc.edu)

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# Belchertown High School Veterans' Day Assembly!

Come join us as we honor your service to our country!

- Date: November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- Time: 8:30a.m.-10:45a.m.
- Where: Belchertown High School Auditorium

The Belchertown High School band and choir will be performing!  
There will also be a complimentary breakfast reception provided by  
Belchertown High School Student Council!

We are very excited to see our veterans sitting in the audience!

R.S.V.P. at [bhsstudentcouncil2016@gmail.com](mailto:bhsstudentcouncil2016@gmail.com) by November 4<sup>th</sup>