

Title: Veteran's Services Advisory Board

16 Feb 2017

From: Veteran's Agent

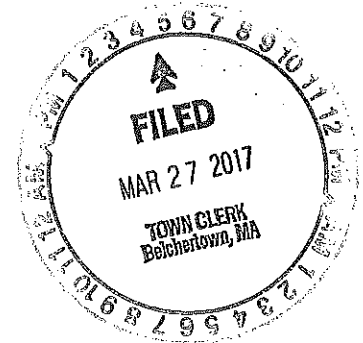
Subject: Meeting Minutes

1. The forty-fifth meeting of the Veteran's Services Advisory Board (VSAB) was called to order at 6:00 p.m., 16 Feb 2017, in the VSA office area.

2. Members in attendance were:

Mr. Ray Janke
Ms. Jan Jourdain
Mr. Joe Currier
Mr. Bill McClure

Mr. Vincent Viglione
Mr. Larry Raines
Mr. Anthony McAvoy



Members Absent were:

Selectman Archie Archible
Mr. Bill Bowen
* Mr. Robert Vigneault

3. Old Business:

a. Due to Selectman Archible's absence, the ESGR issue was not addressed.

(OPEN)

b. Mr. Janke briefed that he has gained authorization to access the town's reverse 911 system and can now notify town residents in changes to Veteran's events.

(CLOSED)

c. The past Veteran's Days activities were reviewed. **(CLOSED)**

4. New Business:

a. Mr. Janke and committee reviewed upcoming Memorial Day activities, agenda, and news article. A guest speaker and pastor are needed. **(OPEN)**

b. Mr. Janke briefed that in future Veteran/Town events, local service organizations (VFW, American Legion, DAV) may not be able to provide Honor Guard, Flag Team or ceremonial support. This is due to age and fewer members because of declining military membership. **(CLOSED)**

5. Public Input/Concerns/Comments:

a. Mr. Janke briefed that the public is again advised that Federal/Governor rules apply to lowering the U.S. flag, and that the town administrator and select-board govern the state/town flag protocol. **(CLOSED)**.

6. Good of the VSAB:

a. Mr. Janke briefed on the attachments:

- Caller ID scams
- VA claims for Camp Lejeune

- Agent Orange Video
- National Guard/Reserve Veteran Status

7. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 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 is scheduled for 16 March 2017.

Vincent Viglione
VSAB Recording Secretary

Approved

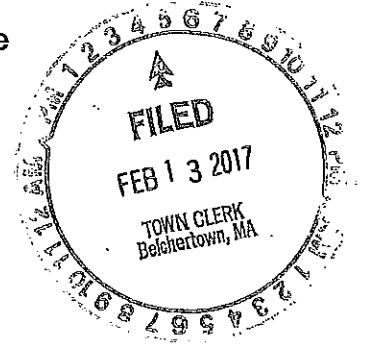


Ray Jarke
Veteran's Service Agent
Co-Chairperson

Cc: Town Clerk
Town Administrator
Board of Selectman
Committee members



Veterans' Services Advisory Board Meeting Notice



Meeting Date: 2-16-2017

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Adjacent to Veterans' Agents Office

Agenda:

- #1 Old Business
 - #1a VSAB Statement of Support for ESGR Program update
 - #1b Review/input on Veteran Day ceremonies
- #2 New business
 - #2a Memorial Day planning/coordination 2017
 - #2b Memorial Day press release review
- #3 Public input/concerns
- #4 Good of the VSAB

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

**For Immediate Release
May 12, 2017**

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

*****Press Advisory*****

2017 Belchertown Memorial Day Events

Ray Janke, the Belchertown Veterans' Agent, announces the annual Memorial Day events set for this year's Memorial Day weekend beginning Saturday May 27.

Please come out and participate in one or more of the planned Memorial Day events to remember and honor our nation's men and women who fell in battle. Gold Star parents planning to attend Monday's parade and ceremony should contact Mr. Janke at 323-0409.

The following Memorial Day events are planned for May 27, 28, and 29:

- Saturday, May 27: The American Legion will sell poppies at local Belchertown businesses 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.
- Sunday, May 28: Belchertown Veterans Council, in conjunction with the Friends of the Quabbin and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, invites everyone to attend the traditional memorial services at Quabbin Park Cemetery. Please begin gathering at 10:30 am for the 11:00 am ceremony.
- Monday, May 29: 8:30 – 8:45 am South Cemetery, a salute to the veterans interred at Belchertown's South cemetery. Everyone is invited.
- Monday, May 29: People marching in the Belchertown Memorial Day Parade are asked to gather at the Town Hall starting at 9:30 am. The parade will step off at 10:00 am beginning at the town hall and ending at the town common, followed by a ceremony. The guest speaker will be retired XXX XXXX of the United States XXXX XXX. Organizations and individuals that would like to march in the parade must contact parade coordinator Ray Janke at: rjanke@belchertown.org or call 323-0409 before Friday, May 26.
- Anyone wishing to retire old U.S. flags may drop them off at the VFW, the Selectmen's office, and/or the Veterans' Agent office.

BELCHERTOWN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY

29 May 2017

Order of events

10:00 am Parade steps off and proceeds to the common

Mr. Poulin: Welcome, statement of purpose

Invocation: Reverend XXX XXXX

Welcome: Chairman of the Belchertown Board of Selectman

Pledge of Allegiance

Music selection: Jabish Brook Middle School

Salute to Fallen Comrades:

Presentation of memorial wreaths and reading of KIA names

Firing Detail fires three volleys

Taps

National Anthem: Belchertown High School Band

Raising of the U.S. Flag during National Anthem

Politicians' Comments: XXXXX XXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX

Flanders Fields- "Donald Slessler, retired XXX XXX" ???

Keynote Speaker: XXXX XXXXX, veteran XX XXXX

Musical Selection: Belchertown High School Band

Benediction: Reverend XXX XXXX

Adjourn

Memorial Day

Preparation

1. **February:** Arrange/invite guest speaker.
2. **April:**
 1. Order 4 new wreaths for the monuments; flag pole (WWI/WWII/Korea), Grand Union, Viet Nam, and Middle East.
 2. Procure new flags from Sentry Uniform (paid for by Vet Council funds);
 1. 8x12 all-weather Stars & Stripes and 5x8 dbl-sided POW/MIA for flagpole on the common.
 2. 5x8 all-weather Stars & Stripes and a 3x5 double-sided: **POW/MIA** & Gold Star/Blue Star Family flag for Town Hall pole.
 3. At South Cemetery: a 5x8 all-weather Stars & Stripes, 3x5 of the following flags- US Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, Merchant Marine, and POW/MIA.
 4. At Lake Vale: a 4x6 all-weather Stars & Stripes.
3. **Early May:**
 1. Send invitations to: school bands, Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts/Brownies, Selectmen, Fire, EMS, and elected officials.
 2. Notify B'town police of parade route and required traffic enforcement.
 3. Notify B'town DPW re: events for grounds keeping and decorations.
 4. Coordinate with Graves Officer to flag veterans' graves.
 5. Arrange for Color Guard/firing squad from Am Legion, VFW, and DAV.
 6. Send request letter to each place of worship in town, for a special acknowledgement in their service the Sunday before Memorial Day, for the Veterans who died for our country.
4. **Three weeks prior:** Have either the Commander Co-Chair of the VSAB or the Veterans' Agent write/submit an article of the Memorial Day planned activities to the Sentinel, Hampshire Gazette, Republican newspapers; and Belchertown-news.com inviting all to participate and to gather for the parade at 9:30am in the parking lot of the Town Hall. (Have gold star parents contact my office if they wish to participate in the ceremony) Confirm Invitations and offers to speak for the State and Federal representatives associated with our town, district, and/or state. Distribute this article to the Selectmen's office for a **Channel 5** update and to send out notices of the ceremony to the appropriate town departments. Also have all groups email the parade coordinator at: rjanke@belchertown.org so the parade lineup can be worked out.

5. Day before parade/ceremony:

1. Replace old flags with new ones purchased from Sentry Uniform (Friday before).
2. Replace wreaths with new- place on stands and store in gazebo.
3. Stage PA system components in gazebo.

On Memorial Day

1. Early morning:

1. Lower Town Common, Town Hall flags, and all the flags at South Cemetery to 1/2 staff.
2. Position podium, wreaths in front of gazebo.
3. Prep/position PA system.
4. Have seats for the gold star parents, politicians, and speaker.
5. Bouquet(s) of flowers for gold star mom's staged.

2. At 8:30 am:

1. A salute to the fallen at South cemetery (color guard + firing squad)

3. At 9:30am:

1. Gather at the Town Hall
2. Arrange for wreath placers (two for each wreath) with local Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.
3. Get the names of buglers from band and designate the positions where each bugler should stand.

4. 9:55am: Form up parade in street.

5. 10:00am: Parade steps off. Proceeds up Main, around common down Park Street, onto the center of the common in positions around the gazebo and monuments for the ceremony. (Firing squad, salute, taps...)

Note: Have the DPW raise the flags at various Town locations after the Memorial Day ceremonies.

Spoofing and Caller ID

"Spoofing" occurs when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. Spoofing is often used as part of an attempt to trick someone into giving away valuable personal information so it can be used in fraudulent activity or sold illegally. U.S. law and FCC rules prohibit most types of spoofing.

How does spoofing work?

Caller ID lets consumers avoid unwanted phone calls by displaying caller names and phone numbers, but the caller ID feature is sometimes manipulated by spoofers who masquerade as representatives of banks, creditors, insurance companies, or even the government.

What you can do if you think you're being spoofed

You may not be able to tell right away if an incoming call is spoofed. Be careful about responding to any request for personal identifying information.

- Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, passwords or other identifying information in response to unexpected calls or if you are at all suspicious.
- If you get an inquiry from someone who says they represent a company or a government agency seeking personal information, hang up and call the phone number on your account statement, in the phone book or on the company's or government agency's website to verify the authenticity of the request.
- Use caution if you are being pressured for information immediately.
- If you have a voice mail account with your phone service, be sure to set a password for it. Some voicemail services are preset to allow access if you call in from your own phone number. A hacker could spoof your home phone number and gain access to your voice mail if you do not set a password.

Is spoofing illegal?

Under the Truth in Caller ID Act, FCC rules prohibit any person or entity from transmitting misleading or inaccurate caller ID information *with the intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongly obtain anything of value*. If no harm is intended or caused, spoofing is not illegal. Anyone who is illegally spoofing can face penalties of up to \$10,000 for each violation. In some cases, spoofing can be permitted by courts for people who have legitimate reasons to hide their information, such as law enforcement agencies working on cases, victims of domestic abuse or doctors who wish to discuss private medical matters.

Is blocking a phone number the same thing as spoofing?

Spoofing is not the same thing as blocking a phone number. FCC rules require telephone companies to make phone number blocking available and free for all calls between states (each state makes its own rules about calls that stay within the state). If you receive a phone call from an "unknown number," that phone number has been blocked, but not necessarily spoofed. Also, you can legally block the transmission of your phone number when you make calls, so your number will appear as "unknown."

What are the FCC rules regarding caller ID for telemarketers?

FCC rules specifically require that a telemarketer:

- Transmit or display its telephone number or the telephone number on whose behalf the call is being made, and, if possible, its name or the name of the company for which it is selling products or services.
- Display a telephone number you can call during regular business hours to ask to no longer be called. This rule applies even to companies that already have an established business relationship with you.

How do I report suspected spoofing?

If you receive a call and you suspect caller ID information has been falsified, or you think the rules for protecting the privacy of your telephone number have been violated, you can [file a complaint with the FCC](#).

Print Out

[Caller ID and Spoofing Guide \(pdf\)](#)

File a Complaint with the FCC: [File Your Complaint](#)

Visit our Consumer Complaint Center at consumercomplaints.fcc.gov to file a complaint or tell us your story.

Request Accessible Format

To request this article in an accessible format - braille, large print, Word or text document or audio - email fcc504@fcc.gov, or write the address or call the phone number at the bottom of this page.

Consumer Help Center

Learn about consumer issues - visit the FCC's Consumer Help Center at www.fcc.gov/consumers.

VA**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs****News Release**Office of Public Affairs
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.govFOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 2017**VA's Rule Establishes a Presumption of Service Connection for Diseases Associated with
Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune**
VA to provide disability benefits for related diseases

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions:

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- bladder cancer
- kidney cancer
- liver cancer
- multiple myeloma
- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

"We have a responsibility to take care of those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. "Establishing a presumption for service at Camp Lejeune will make it easier for those Veterans to receive the care and benefits they earned."

Environmental health experts in VA's Technical Workgroup conducted comprehensive reviews of scientific evidence, which included analysis and research done by the Department of Health and Human Service's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Environmental Protection Agency, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the National Toxicology Program, and the National Academies of Science.

Veterans with 30 or more cumulative days of active duty service, at Camp Lejeune during the contamination period are already eligible for certain medical benefits, following passage of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent, as well as benzene and vinyl chloride, were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985.

The area included in this presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas.

The rule will be effective either 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, or following conclusion of the 60-day Congressional Review, whichever is later.

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AO View spraying missions in Vietnam by date and location

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/chi-091204-agentorange-map-htmlstory.html>

View spraying missions in Vietnam by date and location

U.S. troops, Vietnamese nationals exposed to dangerous chemicals

By Jason Grotto, Chris Groskopf, Ryan Mark, Joe Germuska and Brian Boyer | Tribune staff
Dec. 4, 2009

The map below can be used to see defoliant spraying missions by U.S. and South Vietnamese forces over Vietnam, as well as Laos and Cambodia. The missions began in summer 1961 and ended more than a decade later, in spring 1971.

Clicking and dragging on the timeline at the bottom of the map lets you view the spraying missions as they took place over months and years. You also can zoom in on a particular town or area by entering its name in the search box. Once you have found the spraying missions you are looking for, you can click on the lines on the map to get more details about the missions, such as the number of legs, or runs, the number of gallons and the type of defoliant.

[Read the Tribune series on Agent Orange and its toxic legacy.](#)

Please note: Lines rendered on the map represent spraying runs, many of which are part of multi-run spraying missions. The quantity of herbicide listed in the map descriptions are per mission. Line width on the map is not an indicator of spray distribution. Herbicide quantity is not available for some missions.

This interactive map is based on the Herbicide Exposure Assessment-Vietnam database developed by Jeanne Stellman, professor emeritus at Columbia University's school of public health, and Columbia epidemiology professor Steven Stellman. They cleaned data from a 1974 National Academy of Sciences database and supplemented the records with documents from the National Archives. The database is considered the most comprehensive available on spraying missions. The effort was funded by a contract from the National Academy of Sciences to build an exposure model that could be used to assess the defoliants' health impact on U.S. veterans who served in Vietnam. The model has been evaluated twice by the Institute of Medicine, which recommended that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs use it to evaluate the chemicals' health impact. The VA has been testing the exposure model since 2003.

National Guard and Reserve Finally Get Veteran Status

By Susan Katz Keating Dec. 19, 2016, 2:20pm <https://aminewswire.com/stories/511060246-national-guard-and-reserve-finally-get-veteran-status>

Retired National Guardsmen and Reservists will be granted veteran status for the first time, following Presidential approval of a much-haggled bill. President Barack Obama signed the provision into law Friday, as part of a larger package on veterans' benefits.

Until now, Guard and Reserve personnel were considered veterans only if they served in a federalized capacity for more than 179 days other than training. Even a reservist who attended regular training and drill for two decades, but never was federalized, could not claim to be a veteran. Now, Guard and Reserve members will be recognized as veterans if they serve honorably for 20 years.

The previous definition was long outdated, said retired Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett, president of the National Guard Association of the United States. "Many of those affected underwent arduous, even dangerous, training," Hargett said in a statement. "They helped win the Cold War. Others worked in direct support of those who did deploy."

And yet, Hargett said, the nation told them they were not veterans.

The status change does not provide an increase in veterans' benefits. It does, however, offer pride of identity.

"For so long, Guard and Reservists have known they have served, but they haven't known if they can call themselves veterans," John Goheen, NGAUS spokesman, told American Media Institute. "For certain members, this eliminates the doubt."

The revised definition is welcomed even by those who would qualify as a veteran under the previous definition.

"It's long overdue," said Chad Longell, an Army Reserve sergeant who has deployed multiple times, including to Iraq and Afghanistan. "It's a recognition by Congress of the commitment of the Guard and Reserve and the role we have played in the defense of the Republic."

The new definition adds a measure of cache to troops who have found themselves on the receiving end of inter-component derision.

Active duty forces traditionally have referred to Guard and Reservists as "weekend warriors," because they live civilian lives and serve one weekend a month for drill, plus additional time for annual training.

The issue came to the fore in 2014, when then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno told reporters that the Guard "capabilities are not interchangeable" with those of the active duty Army. The comment spawned a debate over a number of issues, including whether Odierno had insulted the Guard.

The new legislation takes a step toward removing perceived insults.

"Anyone who commits for 20 years to be ready to put their lives on the line for our country deserves the recognition of being called a veteran," Longell said.

The changes were approved in both the House and the Senate last year, Goheen said, but the two chambers did not use the same language in their respective bills.

"They worked it out and came up with a version everyone agreed on," Goheen said. "With no added cost to the government."

The measure was contained within the Miller-Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Act, a comprehensive document that amends title 38 of the United States Code, pertaining to veterans' benefits.

Nurse Practitioners Win Direct Access to VA Patients

Bruce Japsen Forbes Contributor

In a victory for the nation's nurse practitioners, the Department of Veterans Affairs is granting veterans direct access to advanced practice registered nurses.

The final regulations come at a critical time for nurse practitioners, which have doubled to more than 200,000 in the last decade and are looking to expand their ability to care for patients across the country. Meanwhile, the VA is working to engineer a turnaround after being accused of mismanagement and not promptly treating veterans who are known to wait days, weeks and even months for treatments and basic primary care services.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending its medical regulations to permit full practice authority of three roles of VA advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) when they are acting within the scope of their VA employment," the VA said in a summary of the final rule issued today. "This rule-making increases veterans' access to VA healthcare by expanding the pool of qualified healthcare professionals who are authorized to provide primary healthcare and other related healthcare services to the full extent of their education, training and certification, without the clinical supervision of physicians."

Nurse practitioners launched an aggressive campaign in the last year to advocate their profession as a key part of the solution to the VA's woes. The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) has said more than 5,000 nurse practitioners work in the VA system, "providing clinical assessments, ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests, making diagnoses, and initiating and managing treatment plans, including prescribing medications."

Nurse practitioners are becoming more familiar to patients in all settings, proliferating across the country in doctor's offices, hospitals and retail clinics run by CVS Health, Walgreens and Walmart stores. The popularity of nurse practitioners and the care they provide helped bring an onslaught of support from the public to the VA during the public comment period regarding the rule.

AANP president Cindy Cooke said the final rule is "is a critical step for America's veterans to be able to obtain timely, high-quality care in the Veterans Health System."

Not everybody was happy with the VA's move, which was opposed by the American Medical Association.

"We are disappointed by the VA's decision today to allow most advanced practice nurses within the VA to practice independently of a physician's clinical oversight, regardless of individual state law," AMA president Dr. Andrew Gurman said. "This part of the VA's final rule will rewind the clock to an outdated model of care delivery that is not consistent with the current direction of the healthcare system. Providing coordinated, physician-led, patient-centered, team-based patient care is the best approach to improving quality care for our country's veterans, especially given the highly-complex medical care that veterans often require."

The AMA did win one battle because certified registered nurse anesthetists "will not be included in VA's full practice authority under this final rule," the Department of Veterans Affairs said. The AMA's Gurman said the "final rule continues to recognize the critical need for collaboration among physicians and nurse anesthetists to ensure patient safety when delivering anesthesia care."

