



21 Apr 2016

Title: Veteran's Services Advisory Board

From: Veteran's Agent

Subject: Meeting Minutes

1. The forty-second meeting of the Veteran's Services Advisory Board (VSAB) was called to order at 6:00 p.m., 21 Apr 2016, in the VSA office area.

**2. Members in attendance were:**

Mr. Ray Janke	Mr. Larry Raines
Mr. Vincent Viglione	Ms. Jan Jourdain
Selectman Archie Archible	Mr. Robert Vigneault

**Members Absent were:**

Mr. Gerry Desilets	Mr. Bill Bowen
Mr. Edward Dice	Mr. Bill McClure
Mr. Anthony McAvoy	

**3. Old Business:**

- Mr. Janke briefed that the ESGR support letter is still being worked. **(OPEN)**
- The appointment letter of member status was reviewed by Mr. Janke.

**(CLOSED)**

c. The committee reviewed the schedule of events and news release for the upcoming Memorial Day activities. We are still in need of a guest speaker. Mr. Janke is working this issue. **(OPEN)**

**4. New Business:**

- Mr. Janke introduced new member, Mr. Robert Vigneault. **(CLOSED)**
- Mr. Janke and Mr. Archible are working the Purple Heart Town designation sign issue. **(OPEN)**.
- Mr. Viglione reviewed the Memorial Day cemetery flagging schedule:
  - Saturday, 21 May 0930, American Legion at Mt. Hope Cemetery
  - Saturday, 21 May 0930, VFW at South Cemetery

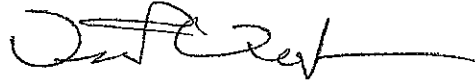
**5. Public Input/Concerns/Comments:**

- None.

**6. Good of the VSAB:**

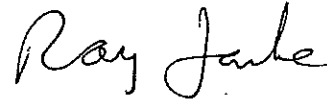
- Mr. Janke reviewed the attached Agent Orange news release.

7. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 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 chairman.



Vincent Viglione  
VSAB Recording Secretary

Approved

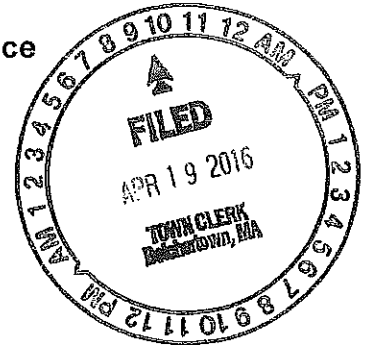


Ray Janke  
Veteran's Service Agent  
Co-Chairperson

Cc: Town Clerk  
Town Administrator  
Board of Selectman  
Committee members



## Veterans' Services Advisory Board Meeting Notice



**Meeting Date: 4-21-2016**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

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

**Agenda:**

- #1 Old Business
  - #1a VSAB Statement of Support for ESGR Program update - *EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE*
  - #1b Appointment paperwork update
- #2 New business
  - #2a Memorial Day planning/coordination 2016
  - #2b Memorial Day press release review
- #3 Public input/concerns
- #4 Good of the VSAB

TO: Gary L. Brougham, Town Administrator  
FROM: Raymond Janke, Co-Chairman of VSAB  
DATE: April 21, 2016  
RE: Annual appointments to the VSAB

The VSAB committee unanimously accepted the following nominations:

- George "Archie" Archible- VSAB At Large Member - June 30, 2019
- Anthony McAvoy- VSAB At Large Member - June 30, 2019
- William Bowen- VSAB At Large Member - June 30, 2019
- Robert Vigneault- VSAB At Large Member - June 30, 2019
- Larry Raines - VSAB At Large Member - June 30, 2018
- Edward Dice- VSAB Associate Member- June 30, 2017
- Keith Poulin- VSAB Associate Member- June 30, 2017
- Gerry Desilets - VSAB Associate Member- June 30, 2017

The VSAB committee unanimously accepted the following removal of members:

- David Vacchi- moved to another state
- Michael Ross- moved to another state
- Michael Czech- deceased

**Note:** Anthony McAvoy is the new Commander at the Belchertown American Legion Post 239. Please contact me if there are any questions or concerns about the nominations.

Sincerely,

Raymond Janke  
Co-Chairman of VSAB

 (REVIEW COPY)

## Ray Janke

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**From:** Keith Poulin <kpoulin@hwsd.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2016 9:29 AM  
**To:** Ray Janke  
**Subject:** Memorial Day

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Ray,

I recently sent you an email letting you know I had a guest speaker for Memorial Day. Today he told me that his wife informed him that he will be in Arizona that weekend. So, Edwin Ramos is unable to be our speaker.

Keith D. Poulin  
Guidance Director  
Minnechaug Regional H.S.  
413-599-1556

## Ray Janke

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**From:** John Paradis <paradisjohn@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2016 4:17 PM  
**To:** Ray Janke  
**Subject:** Vietnam Veteran for Memorial Day

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Ray,  
Great seeing you today! As you may have heard, I'm active in helping West Springfield with their planning committee that is bringing The Wall That Heals to The Big E this August. Here is the web site: [thewallthathealswestspringfield.com](http://thewallthathealswestspringfield.com)

**[thewallthathealswestspringfield.com](http://thewallthathealswestspringfield.com)**

The Wall that Heals comes to West Springfield, MA on  
August 18-21, 2016

I am thinking that one of the many Vietnam Veterans who serve on the committee (who aren't already planning their own Memorial Day ceremony!) might be great to have as your speaker because they can help educate those attending Memorial Day to hear about our efforts and there is a call to action: finding the photographs of Veterans in Hampshire County that were killed in Vietnam but whose photographs are not yet archived in the nation's Education Center at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington. If you like this idea, my first recommendation would be John Hurley from Chicopee, a Vietnam combat Vet who served in the Marines. He's also active with the Veteran's History Project at the Soldiers' Home. \*

Sincerely,

John

**For Immediate Release**  
**May 13, 2016**

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

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

## **2016 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 28.

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 28, 29, and 30:

- Saturday, May 28: The American Legion will sell poppies at local Belchertown businesses 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.
- Sunday, May 29: 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 30: 8:30 – 8:45 am South Cemetery, a salute to the veterans interred at Belchertown's South cemetery. Everyone is invited.
- Monday, May 30: 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 XXX XXXX, veteran U.S. XXXX. Organizations and individuals that would like to march in the parade must contact parade coordinator Ray Janke at: [rjanke@belchertown.org](mailto:rjanke@belchertown.org) or call 323-0409 before Friday, May 27.
- Anyone wishing to retire old flags may drop them off at the VFW, the Selectmen's office, and/or the Veterans' Agent office.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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.**

# **DPW Memorial Day Preparations:**

## **Prior to Memorial Day parade/ceremony:**

- Replace old flags with new ones purchased from Sentry Uniform.

## **On Memorial Day:**

### **1. Early morning:**

- Lower Town Common, Town Hall flags, and all the flags at South Cemetery to 1/2 staff.
- Isolate/reserve six parking spaces for the attending elected officials at the Town Hall parking lot.

### **2. After Memorial Day Ceremony**

- Please have the DPW raise the flags at various Town locations after the Memorial Day ceremonies.

**BELCHERTOWN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY**  
**30 May 2015**

**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: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

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

**Keynote Speaker: XXX XXXX, veteran US XXXX**

**Musical Selection: Belchertown High School Band**

**Benediction: Reverend XXX XXXX**

**Adjourn**

**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  
June 18, 2015

## VA Expands Disability Benefits for Air Force Personnel Exposed to Contaminated C-123 Aircraft

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today published a new regulation that expands eligibility for some benefits for a select group of Air Force Veterans and Air Force Reserve personnel who were exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange through regular and repeated contact with contaminated C-123 aircraft that had been used in Vietnam as part of Operation Ranch Hand (ORH).

VA published this regulation as an interim final rule so that it could immediately begin providing benefits to eligible Air Force veterans and Air Force Reserve personnel who submit a disability compensation claim for any of the 14 medical conditions that have been determined by VA to be related to exposure to Agent Orange.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald made the decision to expand benefits following receipt of a 2015 report by the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (IOM) on Post-Vietnam Dioxin Exposure in Agent Orange-Contaminated C-123 Aircraft. This VA-requested report found evidence that as many as 1,500 to 2,100 Air Force and Air Force Reserve personnel who served as flight, medical and ground maintenance crew members on ORH C-123 aircraft previously used to spray Agent Orange in Vietnam were exposed to the herbicide.

“Opening up eligibility for this deserving group of Air Force veterans and reservists is the right thing to do,” said Secretary McDonald. “We thank the IOM for its thorough review that provided the supporting evidence needed to ensure we can now fully compensate any former crew member who develops an Agent Orange-related disability.”

Under this new rule, Air Force and Air Force Reserve flight, medical and ground maintenance crewmembers who served on the contaminated ORH C-123s are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides during their service, thus making it easier for them to establish entitlement for some VA benefits if they develop an Agent Orange-related presumptive condition. In addition, for affected Air Force Reserve crew members, VA will presume that their Agent Orange-related condition had its onset during their Reserve training. This change ensures that these reservists are eligible for VA disability compensation and medical care for any Agent Orange-related presumptive condition, and that their surviving dependents are eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation and burial benefits.

The interim final rule can be found on the Federal Register: [www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection](http://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection). VA will immediately begin processing claims and issuing benefits to eligible Air Force crew members.

VA encourages reservists who were assigned to flight, ground or medical crew duties at Lockbourne/Rickenbacker Air Force Base in Ohio (90<sup>th</sup> and 907<sup>th</sup> Tactical Air Groups or 355<sup>th</sup> and 356<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Squadron), Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts (731<sup>st</sup> Tactical Air Squadron and 74<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron) or Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, International Airport (758<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron) during the period 1969 to 1986, and developed an Agent Orange-related disability to file a disability compensation claim online through the joint VA-Department of Defense web portal, eBenefits (<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>).

VA also has identified several active duty locations where ORH C-123 aircraft may have been used following their service in Vietnam. Active duty personnel who served in a regular USAF unit location where a contaminated C-123 was assigned and who had regular and repeated contact with the aircraft through flight, ground or medical duties during the period 1969 to 1986, and who develop an Agent Orange-related disability, also are encouraged to apply for benefits. For more information on applying for these benefits, including the affected units, Air Force Specialty Codes and dates of service for affected crew members, and a listing of Agent Orange-related conditions, visit [www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/agentorange-c123.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/agentorange-c123.asp).

In order to avoid unnecessary delay of benefits, claimants should annotate “(C-123)” after each Agent Orange related disability in *Part II, Block 14* of VA Form 21-526 or *Section I, Block 11* of VA

Form VA Form 21-526EZ, when filing on eBenefits. Example: Diabetes (C-123). If claimants have any of the following documents, they should be attached to their application:

- Discharge, separation papers, (DD214 or equivalent)
- USAF Form 2096 (unit where assigned at the time of the training action)
- USAF Form 5 (aircraft flight duties)
- USAF Form 781 (aircraft maintenance duties)
- Dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates)
- Medical evidence (doctor & hospital reports)

VA will process all claims related to C-123 exposure at the St. Paul, Minnesota, VA Regional Office. Claims not filed through eBenefits should be mailed to the following address (or faxed to 608-373-6694):

Department of Veterans Affairs  
 Claims Intake Center  
 Attention: C123 Claims  
 PO Box 5088  
 Janesville, WI 53547-5088

Individuals with specific benefit questions related to herbicide exposure on C-123s may call VA's special C-123 Hotline at 1-800-749-8387 (available 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. EST) or e-mail [VSCC123.VAVBASPL@va.gov](mailto:VSCC123.VAVBASPL@va.gov).