Title: Veteran's Services Advisory Board

From: Veteran's Agent

Subject: Meeting Minutes – 16 April 2015

1. The thirty-eighth meeting of the Veteran's Services Advisory Board (VSAB) was called to order at 6:00 p.m., 16 April 2015, in the VSA office area.

2. Members in attendance were:
   Mr. Ray Janke
   Mr. Vincent Viglione
   Ms. Jan Jourdain
   Mr. Bill Bowen
   Mr. Bill McClure

Members Absent were:
   Mr. Michael Czech
   Mr. Gerry Desilets
   Mr. Michael Ross
   Mr. Larry Raines
   Mr. Edward Dice
   Selectman Archie Archible

Special Guest: Mr. Ed Knight, Commander, Sons of Civil War

3. Old Business:
   a. Mr. Janke and the committee reviewed the agenda for the upcoming Memorial Day activities. Mr. Edward Dice, Air Force Veteran and Veterans Agent intern will be the guest speaker. Father Vernon Decouteau of St. Francis Parish in town will serve as chaplain. (OPEN)
   b. Mr. Viglione briefed that flagging of the eight Belchertown cemeteries will take place the week of 11-16 May, with Mt. Hope and South being complied with on 18 and 19 May with the VFW and American Legion. (OPEN)
   c. The committee concurred with Mr. Janke forwarding a letter to the Belchertown Parade committee expressing our desire that the current parade flag protocol be followed, with no changes. (CLOSED)
   d. Mr. Ed Knight, Commander of the Sons of the Civil War was in attendance to discuss and upcoming event at Quabbin Cemetery. (CLOSED)
   e. POW/Service Flag issue resolved by moving flags to proper Town Hall flag poles. (CLOSED)

4. New Business:
   a. Mr. Janke and the committee reviewed and discussed HR3319, a proposed bill relating to restructuring the States Veterans Agent process. This issue is political in scope and therefore needs to be addressed individually. (CLOSED)
b. Mr. Viglione briefed a recent VA e-mail classifying Reservist’s as not being “Veterans” as relates to the current “Agent Orange” C-123 exposure issue. (CLOSED)
c. Mr. Viglione briefed of an upcoming event, 9 May 2015, 4:00 pm at Lake Vale Cemetery. A Revolutionary War Veteran buried there, Capt Gideon Stebbins, is being certified into the National Registry of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Members of the VFW, American Legion, Belchertown Historical Association, Veteran’s Agent and local media have been invited to participate. (OPEN)

5. Public Input/Concerns/Comments:
   a. Comment made on article in the Sentinel seeking donations for purchase for flags for Town Common poles.

6. Good of the VSAB: None

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 chairperson.

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: 4-16-2015
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Adjacent to Veterans' Agents Office

Agenda:

#1 Old Business

#2 New business

#2a Sentinel article update/review

#2b Memorial Day planning/review

#2c Letter BT Parade Committee- CG

#3 Public input/concerns

#4 Good of the VSAB

#5

#6
For Immediate Release
May 13, 2015

***Press Advisory***

2015 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 23.

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 23, 24, and 25:

- **Saturday, May 23:** The American Legion and its Auxiliary will sell poppies at local Belchertown businesses 8:00 am to 12:00 noon.

- **Sunday, May 24:** 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 25:** 8:30 – 8:45 am South Cemetery, a salute to the veterans interred at Belchertown’s South cemetery. Everyone is invited.

- **Monday, May 25:** 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 Edward Dice, veteran US Air Force. 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 22.

- Anyone wishing to retire old flags may drop them off at the VFW, the Selectmen’s office, and/or the Veterans’ Agent office.
BELCHERTOWN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND CEREMONY
25 May 2015

Order of events

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

Mr. Poulin: Welcome, statement of purpose

Invocation: Reverend Vernon P. Decoteau

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 Sessler, retired XXX XXX

Keynote Speaker: Edward Dice, veteran US Air Force

Musical Selection: Belchertown High School Band

Benediction: Reverend Vernon P. Decoteau

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 3x5 dbl-sided Gold Star/Blue Star Family flag for Town Hall pole. (POW - 3 x 5 ? DBL-SIDED)
      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 Beichertown-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 rianke@beichertown.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 9:30 am:
   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.
Ray Janke

From: Ed-Mary <ed-mary@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 6:33 PM
To: Ray Janke
Subject: Pages from 2006Ritual.pdf
Attachments: Pages from 2006Ritual.pdf

For Quabbin Service

Suggest this should close the Quabbin Service, along with a reading of Gen Logan Gen order #11

See you at the meeting

Ed Knight
MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

Camp Commander — Brothers of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Friends: We assemble once more to pay to our ancestors our tribute of love and respect and within these sacred bonds to pledge anew our dedication to their memory and the principles for which they fought.

With bowed heads, solemn tread, and voices hushed, we meet to remind our people of their duty to the soldiers and sailors who wore the blue; to the Flag for which they fought; to the country for which they died; and that it is for us to keep green the memories of their heroic service and unselfish sacrifice.

May we fully realize the sanctity of the place and hour; may our conduct give assurance of the sincerity of our purpose and our earnest appreciation of the duties and responsibilities resting upon us as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The Chaplain will invoke the Divine Blessing.

Chaplain — Supreme Ruler of the Universe! God of battles and of peace! We thank Thee for this day and hour; for this blessed privilege of meeting here as sons of soldiers and sailors to do homage to a Nation’s dead.

We thank Thee that in the day of trouble and the hour of danger Thou in Thy infinite wisdom raised up men who were ready to do battle, and if need be, to die that this country might be preserved. Grant us, we beseech Thee, a continuance of Thy watchful care.

Grant Thy blessing upon these sacred ceremonies, consecrated as they are to the memory of brave and loyal hearts who dared stand for the right and did not fear to bare their breasts to a storm of steel in defense of human liberty, a united country and the brotherhood of man.

Bless our country. Preserve its integrity. Prosper our Order. Make it, we pray Thee, an instrument in Thy hands of great good to our country and to Thee, and at last gather us with Thee in the Great Camp of Eternity. Hear and answer, we beseech Thee. Amen.

All — Amen

“America.” (All joining with music.)

Address – By prominent citizen or other appropriate speaker.

Address — “The Unknown Dead.” (By a Son of Union Veteran of the Civil War.)

Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - (if participating) - Tribute

Dirge — If no band is present, have drum corp beat a roll.

Salute — Three volleys.

Benediction — By a minister

Dirge — Followed by “Taps”

Decoration of graves — Should be done by a Memorial Day Committee or the Camp members prior to Memorial Day.

Camp returns, in order, to Camp room and is dismissed.
Bill HD 1590 becomes H 3319

Thank you for contacting Rep Faley-Bouvier's office regarding An Act relative to veterans' agents. HD 1590 now has a bill number. It is H3319 and has been assigned to the Joint Committee on Veteran's and Federal Affairs. Here is the website so you can follow the bill, https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Joint/J31.

Best Regards,

Lisa

Lisa Fletcher-Udel
Legislative Aide
State Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier
33 Dunham Mall
Pittsfield, MA 01201
413-442-4300
lisa.fletcherudel@mahouse.gov


MA H3319 | 2015-2016 | 189th General Court
Massachusetts House Bill 3319

MA State Legislature page for H3319
Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs

It shall be the duty of the committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs to review all legislation having to do with veterans or affairs dealing with the federal government.

Committee Contact Info

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senate Information</th>
<th>House Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room 504</td>
<td>Room 174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State House</td>
<td>State House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston, MA 02133</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: (617) 722-1348</td>
<td>Tel: (617) 722-2877</td>
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Committee Members

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<tr>
<td>Michael F. Rush</td>
<td>Jerald A. Parisella</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas P. Kennedy</td>
<td>Alan Silvia</td>
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<td>Senate Vice Chair</td>
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<td>Michael J. Barrett</td>
<td>Gloria L. Fox</td>
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<td>Eric P. Lesser</td>
<td>James Amendro</td>
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<td>Anne M. Gobi</td>
<td>Daniel J. Ryan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</td>
<td>David F. DeCoste</td>
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Date  Starts  Topics

No hearings currently scheduled
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Belchertown officials oppose legislation that would eliminate local veterans' agents across state

Belchertown Veterans' Agent Ray Janke addressing selectmen at the April 13, 2015 meeting. Janke and the board oppose proposed legislation that would eliminate the town's agent and instead create regional service centers directly administered by the state (Jim Russell photo)

By Jim Russell | Special to The Republican on April 14, 2015 at 1:20 PM

VETERANS AFFAIRS

- Belchertown officials oppose legislation that would eliminate local veterans' agents across state
- VA makes little headway in fight to shorten waits for veterans' care
- Family of Marine veteran Jeffrey Lucey 'incredulous' over behavior of Indiana VA administrator
- Florence National Guard Armory to host educational "Breakfast with the Boss"
- 73 years after attack on Pearl Harbor, veterans and civilians across Massachusetts to hold vigil

BELCHERTOWN - Selectmen and the town's veteran's agent, Ray Janke, vehemently oppose Legislation that would radically alter the current system to manage veteran's benefits in the state - saying it would degrade rather than improve services here.

Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier, a Pittsfield Democrat, filed a bill in January that would eliminate local veterans' agents and create regional operations centers instead.

The state would run the newly created districts, according to Farley-Bouvier.

She summarized some of the proposed changes in an email Belchertown officials shared with the public during the Monday meeting.
If enacted, the law would "require the Commissioner of Veterans' Services to divide the commonwealth into at least 25 geographical districts, and each district would be overseen by a veterans' service agent," the legislator wrote.

State Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier, D-Pittsfield

"The agents and their deputies, assistants, and any administrative staff, would be state employees who provide benefits directly from the state to the veterans and veterans' dependents within their district, removing the burden of those benefits from local taxes."

Belchertown town administrator Gary Brougham said "it is unfortunate the Legislature" would vanquish a good system due to isolated personnel problems in some communities.

He stated that Massachusetts has been "the only state in the country" that required each city and town to employ a veterans agent.

"Maybe it's good for the state; it's not good for Belchertown," Selectman Ron Aponte added.

"I am 100 percent against regionalization," selectman George "Archie" Archible said. "We have an excellent veterans' agent.

"If there is a problem, this board will fix it," he said. The proposed law would be "another setback for veterans."
Belchertown Selectmen unanimously voted to send a letter to Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier opposing the proposed legislation *Jim Russell photo*

Janke told selectmen that current rules and laws already are in place should a particular community's veterans' agent fail to do their job - that allow regionalizing service if needed.

"It exists right now under the law," he said.

"I think this bill is overkill," Janke said. He asserted that regional centers would be prone to long wait times akin to what customers can experience at registry of motor vehicles service centers.

Janke also questioned how those without a vehicle would actually get to a regional center given the dearth of public transportation in western Mass. - noting that he makes house calls when needed.

The *Sentinel and Enterprise* newspaper reported Tuesday that Ashburnham selected oppose the bill, and plan to write a letter expressing their displeasure.

Belchertown selectmen unanimously voted to send a letter to Bouvier-Farley opposing the idea.

In a related matter, selectmen re-appointed Janke to another one-year terms.
VA States DNA Database Will Help Future Vets

Jerome Greer Chandler

http://digitaledition.qwinc.com/article/VA%E2%80%99s DNA Database Will Help Future Vets/1135199/120990/article.html

Collecting medical information now will enable doctors to better predict, prevent and treat diseases in the future.

By definition, veterans leave a legacy for future generations. But there’s a way to do more, to—just perhaps—heal those who’ve yet to be born. The price this time around is paltry compared to what you’ve already paid, a mere pinprick.

VA’s Million Veteran Program (MVP) is out to gather as much genetic information as it can over the next five to seven years from a million vets, perhaps more. The idea is to take the intelligence gleaned from those genes and someday render it actionable in the war against disease.

This mission is strictly for volunteers. The only qualification: you’ve got to be enrolled in the VA health system. The payoff? Ah, that’s the tricky part. You may never see it.

“Veterans, much more than others, sign up for these studies when there’s no benefit in sight,” says Dr. Joel Kupersmith, chief research and development officer for VA’s Office of Research and Development. “They really do it for altruistic reasons...This is a form of service.”

The most tangible form that service takes is going to one of 40 participating VA medical centers and having your blood drawn. Then giving informed consent for the genetic data derived from that blood to be tied, via code, to your VA electronic medical records.

The code is designed to protect privacy and security, concerns raised by veterans who were surveyed. VA says all samples will be stored in a secure biorepository, that the participant code will be restricted to a handful of
authorized VA employees, and that “no one can directly identify participants.”

Those researchers who are approved to access and analyze samples do not get identifying data that links them to veterans: no name, no date of birth, no address or Social Security number.

When they were surveyed, prospective participants also wanted something else—assurances “that the data be used well,” says Kupersmith.

NEW FRONTIER? THE GENETIC/ CLINICAL CONNECTION

While VA Genomics Communications Liaison Officer Kendra Schaa says the blood sample/health records link will help researchers “study the impact of genes on health and illness...We will not be including results from any research [or] genetic testing on these samples” in individual electronic medical records. Nor, at least not right now, are there any plans to give participating vets their genetic test results.

Echoing Kupersmith, Schaa says, “Veterans are generally volunteering to participate in MVP for the greater good.”

That said, the people running these genetic trials are excited. Kupersmith contends the blood sample/electronic records connection will “provide a rare, If not virtually unique, opportunity to link the genomic information with the clinical information.”

Okay, but to what end? Kupersmith says one VA researcher is “in the very early stages” of developing a drug for schizophrenia, a drug “based on one of the genes that he’s found.” Granted, the discovery of this gene predates the MVP effort. But the point is clear: genetic research can have real-world applications— far ranging applications.

“Virtually any chronic disease probably has a genetic component,” says Kupersmith. Coronary heart disease and lung cancer are a couple of key
genetically-linked killers.

Although science has long understood smoking can cause lung cancer, the MVP chief asserts, “There’s probably a genetic predisposition that some people have—and others don’t—that if they smoke they’re more likely to get lung cancer, or get it at an earlier age.”

PERSONALIZED MEDICINE AND GENETIC DRUG THERAPY

If genes predispose one person to more readily contract a disease than another, understanding those mechanisms might also help researchers better treat the ailment. Some patients respond well to a given medicine. Others don’t. One patient needs a higher dose; another a lower.

Dr. John Concato, one of MVP’s two principal investigators, believes genetic research holds the potential to open up new avenues in “personalized medicine.” Pharmacogenomics is one approach—the use of genetics in drug therapies. More precisely metering the dosage of meds a particular patient needs could ease the side effects, “the thing we worry about most,” says Kupersmith.

In the wake of two recent wars, the VA also worries about post-traumatic stress (PTS). Kupersmith says researchers will be looking to see if there’s a connection between genomics and PTS. Might there be a gene for the condition, or—to flip it—a gene for resilience?

If there are such genes, and research can pinpoint them, might that mean the U. S. military could better select those capable of weathering the withering rigors of combat? While admitting “that question has been raised,” Kupersmith is quick to say, “We obviously don’t make those decisions.”

The intent isn’t to select superwarriors, or those better suited to the rear echelons—at least not yet. The idea is to know if someone’s susceptible to PTS. With knowledge in hand, “You might do certain things to try to prevent
it," he says. Right now, the resilience gene is simply conjecture. But the mere discussion of whether it lies intertwined in the complex matrix that makes up the human genome is tantalizing.

That’s because the genome comprises all the Deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, extant in a person, including his or her genes. These genes carry within them all of the information needed to construct proteins. Those proteins, in turn, determine lots of things: what we look like, how well we metabolize food, fight infection, and even how we behave.

DNA is fashioned from four chemicals or bases: adenine, thymine, guanine and cytosine. Adenine forms a ‘base pair’ with thymine; guanine with cytosine. The human genome possesses an astounding 3.2 billion base pairs, and their order is critical.

For about the last 10 years the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) says there’s been a concerted effort to study genome-wide associations by "rapidly scanning markers across the complete sets of DNA, or genomes, of many people." The aim is to detect “genetic variations associated with a particular disease,” according to NHGRI.

Once researchers identify those associations, the Institute says it can use the insight “to detect, treat and prevent the disease.” Those studies are especially adept at ferreting out genetic variations that contribute to common, yet complex, disorders such as asthma, cancer, diabetes, heart disease and mental illnesses.

Concato says science is now in the midst of what’s termed “Next-Generation Sequencing.” He says it “extends all the way to ‘Whole Genome Sequencing.’” That’s where, quite literally, scientists analyze all our genes. Right now, the process is expensive and there are lots of challenges when it comes to information technology. Still, Concato says VA “is well suited,” in cooperation with others, to tackle the issues.
He says the Million Veteran Program envisions a day when IT challenges will be largely overcome, when tests we can’t even conceive of yet will allow future researchers to “dip back into this resource, this bio-repository, and [do] good work in the future.”

Just last year, a human genome cost about $5,000 to sequence says Dr. Ayman Fanous, MVP’s local site investigator at the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center. “We’re roughly at the $3,000 price point now,” and getting close “to the $1,000 genome.” The researcher says there’s a bit of a “price war” going on in genetic research, so much so that “it pays not to use the...genetic technology that’s [currently] available as soon as we collect [samples] from patients. The aim is to find that sweet spot: large sample size, and reasonable cost.”

Saving money might not be the only payback inherent in this wait-and-see sampling approach. The Million Veteran Program aims at compiling what scientists term a “longitudinal data set,” or “a group of people who can be followed over time,” says Fanous. He says that’s “greatly advantageous.” You don’t get just a snapshot of the subject, in effect you shoot a motion picture—one that follows the veteran through a significant slice of his or her life.

STRIVING FOR MILLION MARK

While still far, far south of the million mark, the sample size is growing. MVP deliberately started slowly. The first year comprised the “vanguard” phase, says Concato, with a modest number of sites. “We just wanted to make sure that all of our procedures were working well,” he says. The effort has now shifted gears, entering a “ramp-up” region where enrollment is beginning to roll in.

Many volunteers are walk-ins. The VA didn’t invite them in, didn’t send them a letter. They’ve just seen signs around their VA medical centers and decided to look into things. “They’re coming in on their own,” says Fanous. “I would say the response ... has been rather amazing.”
As of May 2012, VA says 117,000 veterans had participated in the Million Veteran Program baseline survey, 56,000 of whom donated a blood sample. One of them is former Army MP Ostella Criss, Jr. He’s also a VA employee.

Like a lot of vets who decided to roll up their sleeves and serve yet once again, Criss characterizes his motivation this way: “I just thought it would be interesting to participate, and to be of help to other veterans by giving my DNA. Maybe down the road it will help others.”

E-MAIL magazine@vfw.org

JEROME GREER CHANDLER is a contributing editor at Business Travel Executive Magazine. He was an Army medic from 1969-72, serving with the 101st Airborne Div. In Vietnam where he was wounded at the Battle of FSB Ripcord in 1970.