

The Lycoming Vet

Volume 8, Issue 4

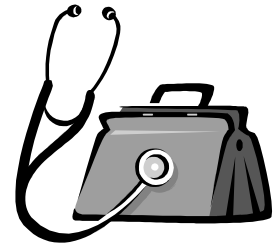
October, 2015

A SNEAK PEAK AT WHAT'S INSIDE



VA News

VAMC Wilkes-Barre Toll Free: 1-877-928-2621



Did you know?
 If you were unable to get to your VA Hospital because of an emergency: you, your family, friends, or hospital staff need to contact one of the numbers within **72 hours** of your emergency, so you are better aware of what services VA may or may not cover.

DAY: Utilization Management
8:00AM-4:00PM
EXT. *7258
NIGHT: Health Benefits Advisor
4:00PM-8:00AM
EXT. *7140

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October

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	1	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Korean War Inc. 9:30am
11	12	13	14 Vietnam War Inc. 6:00pm	15 Marine Corps 7:30pm	16 D.A.V. 7:00pm	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Veterans Council 8:00pm	28	29	30	31

D.A.V 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm

Korean War Inc. 2nd Saturday of every month 9:30am

Lyc. County Veterans Council 4th Tuesday of every month 8:00pm

Marine Corps League 3rd Thursday of every month 7:30pm

Viet-Nam War Inc. 2nd Wednesday of every month 6:00pm

9/11 RIDE

The sun was shining down on thousands of bikers as they started their engines Friday September 11, 2015 outside the Clinton Township Fire Hall for the 14th annual 9/11 Memorial Ride.



The yearly event traverses 19 municipalities in Lycoming County in remembrance of the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001. A preliminary estimate had 12,000 to 15,000 motorcycles roaring through Montgomery, Muncy, Hughesville, Williamsport and Montoursville - the largest turnout yet. Supporters flew flags, waved and cheered curbside for the men and women rolling through. The streets of Hughesville and Muncy were packed with well-wishers, each and every one paying tribute to the anniversary of a dark day in America's history.

Members of one church in Montoursville, Bethany Evangelical Lutheran, rang hand bells along Broad Street. Before the crowd of motorcycles roared through the county, bikes lined Route 54, backed up farther than ever before.

The sun had long set when the last bikes finished the 42-mile loop, but that didn't keep people in every town from cheering them on until every biker rode by.

One World War II veteran showed his appreciation and dedication by standing at attention in his military uniform along Route 220 throughout the entire memorial ride.



This ride in honor of the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country has come a long way since Baird and about 80 others rode through Williamsport four days after the terrorist attacks with their fists in the air, chanting "USA."

2015 HOMETOWN HEROES CEREMONY

“HONORING OUR VETERANS”

Please join us on October 31, 2015, at 10:00am
for the Hometown Heroes Celebration!

The Ceremony will be held at St. Mark's
Lutheran Church/Corner of Via Bella
and Mulberry Street, Williamsport, PA.

(2014 Banners will be ready for pick up
and our Wrought Iron Brackets
will be available for purchase/ \$30)



If you have any questions please contact us at 570-320-2101

EXPENSE APPLICATIONS DUE

Don't forget that all Grave Maintenance, and Veterans Organization (Fourth Of July, Memorial Day, and Veteran's Day) Applications are due before December 15, 2015. If we do not receive your application before this date we will not be able to reimburse the expenses.

If you need any applications or have a question please contact Lycoming County Veterans Affairs Office at 570-320-2101.





**Invitation to All Pennsylvania Military Veterans
 And First Responders
 To Obtain
FREE ESTATE PLANS**



In partnership with the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and with sponsorship by the Lycoming Law Association, we are proud to bring the **Wills for Heroes** program to you. **Wills for Heroes** is a *free* and easy service that provides Wills, Living Wills, Health Care and Financial Powers of Attorney to military veterans and first responders and their spouses/partners.

If you die without a Will, Pennsylvania's intestate laws will determine who will receive your property. Undoubtedly, your loved ones' grief will be overwhelming; a clear expression of your intent, desires, and wishes may help ease some of this inevitable burden. While nobody likes to think about an untimely death, it is best that you express your wishes through a written document. For your family's peace of mind, please consider this invaluable opportunity, offered completely free to you and your spouse/partner.

On Saturday, October 17, 2015, volunteer lawyers will be conducting a **Wills for Heroes Program** for Pennsylvania military veterans and first responders and their spouses or significant others (**please note that proof of affiliation or DD214 will be requested at the event**). This October 17th event will be held at the **Old Lycoming Township Volunteer Fire Company (Station 4), 1600 Dewey Avenue, Williamsport PA beginning at 11:00am**. Appointments for each person last approximately 1 hour and at the conclusion of it you will have notarized legal documents— a Will, Living Will, and Health Care and Financial Powers of Attorney (or any combination thereof). If you select that you are coming with a spouse/significant other you will have back to back appointments, and the computer will automatically schedule a second appointment. You do not need to schedule a separate appointment. Please schedule your appointment early as this event is sure to fill up fast.

Appointments must be scheduled online at: www.pabar.org/wfh/

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Kristine Waltz at kwaltz@dingeswaltz.com . For more information on the program visit the Wills for Heroes Foundation at www.willsforheroes.org.

****** If your estate exceeds approximately **\$750,000**, this service is unavailable to you due to the complexity of your estate and the limited time to complete the legal documents. *For determining if your estate is over \$750,000, include your cash, personal property, stock and bonds, real estate equity, savings, cash value of a whole/universal life insurance policy only (not the amount of the insurance policy).*

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WILLS DAY FOR
 YOUR APPOINTMENT. MANY INDIVIDUALS ARE VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME FOR THIS PROGRAM.
 NO-SHOWS ARE STRONGLY DISCOURAGED!!

Marine Corps Ball

Come and celebrate with us! Dinner, Dancing, Camaraderie

When: *November 7, 2015*

Time: *5:30PM TO 11:00PM*

Where: *Genetti Hotel, Grand Ball Room*

Cost: *\$30.00/person or \$55.00/couple*

Dinner Selection Includes:

Choice of Country Stuffed Chicken or Prime Rib 8oz

Parsley Buttered Potatoes

Green Beans Almandine

Rolls

Coffee and Tea

Birthday Cake and Ice Cream

Tickets must be purchased by November 1, 2015.

For more information, contact Doug Lane @ 570-322-4075

or Robert Mosley @ 570-322-4727

DOORS OPEN AT 5:15PM NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL PERMITTED

Reserve Your Meals:

Name: _____

Chicken _____

Prime Rib _____

Name: _____

Chicken _____

Prime Rib _____

Mailing Address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Telephone: _____

Complete this reservation and bring to the September or October meeting with a check payable to:

WMSPT DET MCL or mail to P.O. Box 3245 Williamsport, PA 17701 and tickets will be mailed to you.

Deadline November 1, 2015. Please call Doug Lane with any questions.

VA Launches New No-Cost Training Programs

Programs Designed to Help Transitioning Service members and Veterans Develop New Skills and Credentials

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched two new no-cost training programs, Accelerated Learning Programs (ALPs) and VA Learning Hubs, to help transitioning Service members and Veterans from all eras learn skills, earn credentials, and advance in civilian careers following separation from service.

ALPs and Learning Hubs are part of VA's [Veterans Economic Communities Initiative \(VECI\)](#), promoting education and employment opportunities for Veterans through integrated networks of support in 50 cities. VA launched the VECI program in response to President Obama's August 2014 challenge to help Veterans and families integrate with their communities and find meaningful jobs that can lead to economic success. Under VA Secretary Robert McDonald's [MyVA](#) transformation, VECI is now in place in cities across the United States.

ALPs offer transitioning Service members and Veterans the opportunity to build on their world-class training and technical skills gained through their military service, and earn certifications in high-demand fields.

VA is piloting ALPs this summer with seven courses focusing on building skills and certifications needed to advance in high-demand careers in information technology (IT), as part of the [President's TechHire](#) initiative. Each ALP course is offered at no cost and includes free referral and support services..

The first ALP cohort includes seven courses covering a range of IT-related topics, including:

- Coding/Programming Boot Camps;
- 80+ IT Certifications in Hardware, Software, Networking, Web Services, and more;
- Network Support Engineer Job Training and Certification;
- Cybersecurity Training and Certification;
- IT Help Desk Job Training; and
- IT Boot Camps for Desktop Support and Windows Expertise.

Transitioning Service members and Veterans from any era are invited to apply to their choice of courses. Applications will be accepted starting August 17, 2015 – seats in the pilot cohort are limited; applicants are encouraged to apply early. ALPs do not involve use of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.. Students are able to participate in these programs while also pursuing other programs of study using Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. [Visit the ALP website](#) to learn more about each program and apply.

VA is also launching Learning Hubs in 27 cities across the country this year in partnership with the American Red Cross, The Mission Continues and Coursera, an online education platform.

Transitioning Service members and Veterans can take advantage of both online and in-person study. Each week, online course modules will be completed outside the classroom while class sessions, led by Learning Hub facilitators, provide opportunities to discuss course materials with peers, hear from subject matter experts, and network. Upon completion of the program, Servicemembers and Veterans may elect to receive one free verified certificate issued by Coursera.

For more information about the VECI or to learn more about VA ALPs and Learning Hubs, visit VeteranEmployment.vbaco@va.gov.

VA EXPANDS REVIEW OF CHEMICAL EXPOSURE IN DRINKING WATER AT MARINE CORPS BASE

VA Expands Review of Chemical Exposure in Drinking Water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

WASHINGTON – As part of VA's ongoing commitment to provide care to Veterans and their families, the Department of Veterans Affairs today announced that it will start the process of amending its regulations to establish presumptions of service connection for certain conditions resulting from exposure to contaminated drinking water at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

This process is in addition to the healthcare VA already provides for 15 conditions to eligible Veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 as a result of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. VA also provides reimbursement of healthcare expenses for those 15 conditions to eligible family members who resided at Camp Lejeune during that time period. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs recently met with Senators Isakson, Burr and Tillis and the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to discuss the creation of presumptions of service connection for diseases associated with the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. The diseases that are currently being reviewed for potential presumptive service connection include kidney cancer, angiosarcoma of the liver, and acute myelogenous leukemia, which are known to be related to long-term exposure to the chemicals that were in the water at Lejeune from the 1950s through 1987. The chemicals are Benzene, Vinyl Chloride, Trichloroethylene and Perchloroethylene, which are known as volatile organic compounds, used in industrial solvents and components of fuels. ATSDR and VA representatives will meet at ATSDR offices on August 19 to begin discussions on establishing these presumptions.

VA will also work with ATSDR and potentially the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate the body of scientific knowledge and research related to exposure to these chemicals and the subsequent development of other diseases. VA will carefully consider all public comments received when determining the final scope of any presumptions.

Veterans with health problems they believe are related to exposure to the water at Camp Lejeune may file a claim for disability compensation online at www.ebenefits.va.gov, or call 1-800-827-1000 for assistance.

For more information, Veterans and family members should contact the nearest VA healthcare facility by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune. For further information on Camp Lejeune: VHA Office of Public Health has a Website on Camp Lejeune historical water contamination at: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp.

The U.S. Marine Corps encourages all those who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune before 1987 to register for notifications regarding Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water at <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater>.

AMERICAN LEGIONS, VFW's & OTHER COUNTY VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS



American Legion Post 1-

Garrett Cochran
10 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-323-9409

Veterans of the Vietnam War – Post PA 51

P.O. Box 23, Hughesville, PA 17737
Phone: 570-547-2814

American Legion Post 35-

Glenn Sharrow
76 N. Main St., Hughesville, PA 17737
Phone: 570-584-2123

VFW Post 3428-

Edward J. Smith Post
12 N Market St., Muncy, PA 17756
Phone: 570-546-3820

American Legion Post 36 -

George Webster Pepperman
P.O. Box 211, Jersey Shore, PA 17740
Phone: 570-398-4174

VFW Post 5859-

Billy O. Brandt Post
201 N. Lincoln Ave., Jersey Shore, PA 17740
Phone: 570-398-2801

American Legion Post 104 -

Eugene Grafius
1312 Broad St., Montoursville, PA 17754
Phone: 570-368-9000

VFW Post 7863-

Le Roy O. Buck Post
150 Shaffer St., South Williamsport, PA 17702
Phone: 570-323-1579

American Legion Post 251 -

Bower Decker
185 Broad St., Montgomery, PA 17752
Phone: 570-547-2039

VFW POST 844-

Howard W. Kahler Post
1260 West 3rd Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-326-2752

American Legion Post 268 -

Roland Ritter
515 Legion Rd., Muncy, PA 17756
Phone: 570-546-5210

Forty & Eight Voiture 382

345 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-322-1670

American Legion Post 617 -

Royal P. Steinbacher
901 Market Street, South Williamsport,
PA 17702
Phone: 570-327-0255

Susquehanna Valley Chapter 47 of The Disabled American Veterans

P.O. Box 3372, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-567-4554

American Legion Post 999 -

West Branch Service Post
2985 Four Mile Drive, Apt. 107
Montoursville, PA 17754
Phone: 570-447-1572

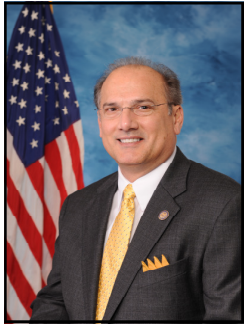
Williamsport Detachment 388

Marine Corp League Inc.
P. O. Box 3245, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-323-9900

Korean War Veterans of Lycoming County, Inc.

P. O. Box 3232, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-745-3775 (Military Funerals)

Your Reps in Washington & Harrisburg



U.S. Representative Thomas Marino— 10th Congressional District

Williamsport District Office
1020 Commerce Park Drive, Suite 1A
Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-322-3961
Fax: 570-322-3965
Office Hours: M-F 9-5
Website: <http://marino.house.gov/>



PA State Senator Gene Yaw— Senate District 23

330 Pine Street, Suite 204	One Progress Plaza, Suite 13
Williamsport, PA	Towanda, PA 18848
Phone: 570-322-6457	Phone: 570-265-7448
Fax: 570-327-3703	Fax: 570-268-4313
Toll-free: 1-800-443-5772	
Website: http://senatorgeneyaw.com/	Email: gyaw@pasen.gov



PA State Representative Garth D. Everett— 84th Legislative District

Penn Hills Plaza, Halls Station	Tiadaghton Valley Mall
21 Kristi Road, Suite 2	Room 105
Muncy, PA 17756	Jersey Shore, PA 17740
Phone: 570-546-2084	Phone: 570-398-4476
Fax: 570-546-5220	Fax: 570-398-5963
Website: http://www.repeverett.com/	Email: geverett@pahousegop.com



PA State Representative Jeff Wheeland— 83rd Legislative District

349 Pine Street Suite 1	Room 414 Irvis Office Building
Williamsport, PA 17701	P.O. Box 202083
Phone: 570-321-1270	Harrisburg, PA 17120-2083
Fax: 570-327-3719	Phone: 717-772-1314
Office Hours: M-F 8-5	
Website: http://www.pahouse.com/mirabito/	
Email: jwheeland@pahousegop.com	

Not sure who your representative is? Find out at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/countylist.cfm?CNTYLIST=LYCOMING>

FROM THE LYCOMING COUNTY VA OFFICE:

Would you like to have a VA Benefit Seminar at a Nursing Home, Legion, VFW, or Other Organization? Have George come and speak to the Veterans and Widows about what they could be eligible for through the VA. Call our office at 570-327-2365 to set it up.

Home Loans? Contact Bob Brown, Sr. Loan Officer at Allentown Mortgage Corp. VA Loan Specialist/ Residential Financing.

Phone: 610-883-7601 or 484-494-6593

Email: bobbrown@worldlynx.net

Web: www.allentownmortgage.com

Licensed by the PA Dept. of Banking

FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:

Are you rated 100% disabled by the VA? Then you may be eligible for real estate tax exemption and free hunting and fishing licenses. Call 570-327-2365 for more information.

If you or anyone you know are interested in being trained for an Honor Guard position please contact the VA office at 570-327-2365.

Important information to Know when Transitioning from TRICARE Prime to Standard.

- You can still see your same doctor.
- Costs for care will change.
- Your health care prior authorizations are still valid.

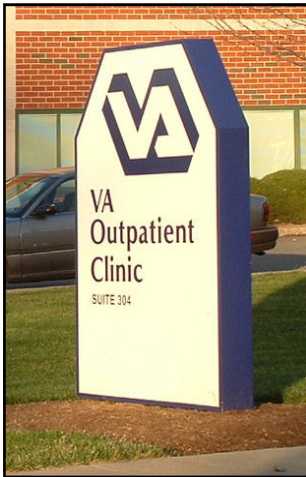
Be aware that your out-of-pocket costs for existing care will change from TRICARE Prime copayments to TRICARE Standard (Extra) cost-shares and deductibles on **October 1, 2013**.

If you have any other questions or concerns please contact us at 570-327-2365



MARINE CORPS BALL

VA Outpatient Clinic



The VA Outpatient Clinic was established July 1997 on the Campus of Divine Providence Hospital in the Wenner Building, 1705 Warren Avenue, Suite 304, Williamsport, PA **Phone:** 570-322-4791 **Fax:** 570-322-5170
Open: Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Scheduled appointments only
~ No Emergency Services/No walk-ins

Services Include: Primary Care, Enrollment/Eligibility forms, Psychiatry, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Social Services, Counseling, Lab, Nutrition services, and Immunizations.

The VA Clinic has a social worker at the clinic on Tuesday and Thursday. Her name is Chris Veach; please call the clinic at (570) 322-4791 to schedule an appointment.

Vet Center

The Vet Center is located at Suite 104, 49 East Fourth Street, Williamsport, next to the James V. Brown Library. Phone 327-5281. All services provided by the Vet Center are **FREE OF CHARGE**. These include readjustment counseling and outreach services to all veterans who served in any combat zone. Services are also available for their family members. These include:

- individual and group counseling: women, spouses, WWII, Korean, Vietnam, OEF/OIF, and other combat veterans.
- group counseling
- marital and family counseling
- bereavement counseling



- substance abuse information and referral
- referral in applying for VA Benefits, job counseling and educational VA benefits
- referral for homeless vets
- military sexual trauma (male and female) counseling & referral
- outreach and community education

Pennsylvania
CareerLink
LYCOMING COUNTY

The PA Career Link—Lycoming County office is located at 329 Pine Street in Williamsport and is open Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Contact: Timothy French

E-mail: tifrench@state.pa.us

Phone: 570-601-5934

Online: www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us



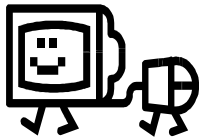
**Lycoming County Office of
Veterans Affairs**

330 Pine Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
Suite 401
Executive Plaza Building
Mailing Address:
48 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
570-327-2365

County Commissioners
Tony R. Mussare,
Chairman
Ernest P. Larson,
Vice Chairman
Jeff W. Rauff,
Secretary

Visit Our Web Site:
www.lyco.org/va

For up-to-date
News and
Information
For Veterans



The Lycoming Vet
is published
by the Office of
Veterans Affairs
in Lycoming County, PA



We are here to help you . . .

MSGT George W. Heiges (Ret.)

Lycoming County Director of Veterans Affairs

570-327-2365 gheiges@lyco.org

- Fully accredited as a Veterans Service Officer by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Twenty- one years USAF

David A. Keene

Assistant Director of Veterans Affairs

570-327-2365 dkeene@lyco.org

- Fully accredited as a Veterans Service Officer by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Four years USMC

To make an appointment, please contact

Natalie Miller at: 570-320-2101

Office Hours

Monday through Friday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Monday– Thursday: Scheduled Appointments Only
Friday: Walk-Ins 9:00 AM- 4:30 PM

(No Comp or Pension Claims, Info ONLY)

Closed weekends and major holidays.

The Lycoming County VA

Office Will Be Closed:

Veteran's Day– Wednesday November 11, 2015
Thanksgiving Holiday– Thursday November 26 &
Friday November 27, 2015
Christmas– Friday December 25, 2015

**Do you have announcements
or information to share???**

The Lycoming County Office of Veterans Affairs invites you to submit articles and items of interest to be published in the next edition of *The Lycoming Vet*.

For questions or to make submissions,
please contact Natalie Miller at the Veterans Affairs Office.