# The Lycoming Vet Volume 14, Issue 2 April 2022



# Become a Veteran Mentor

Volunteer veteran mentors serve as role models and coaches for justice-involved veterans participating in veterans treatment court.

With a small time commitment, you could have a huge impact on a veteran's life and your community.

What do you need to become a mentor? Military Service with an Honorable Discharge

Contact Mike McMunn
Lycoming County Veteran's Affair's Office
570-327-2365
wmcmunn@lyco.org



# Did you know?

If you were unable to get to your VA Hospital because of an emergency: please contact the VA within **72 hours** of your emergency, so you are better aware of what services VA may or may not cover.

Call: 844-724-7842

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# MILITARY DATES OF REMEMBRANCE

# **April**

# Month of the Military Child

April 5 - Gold Star Wives Day

April 14 - Air Force Reserve Birthday

April 15 - Purple Up! For Military Kids

April 23 - Army Reserve Birthday

April 30 - National Military Brats Day

# May

# National Military Appreciation Month

May I - Loyalty Day and Silver Star Service Banner Day

May 8 - Victory in Europe Day/VE Day

May 6 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 13 - Children of Fallen Patriots Day

May 21 - Armed Forces Day

May 27 - National Poppy Day

May 30 - Memorial Day

# <u>June</u>

June 6 - D-Day, anniversary of WWII allied invasion in Normandy, France

June 14 - Flag Day and Army Birthday

June 23 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

June 25 - Anniversary of the start of the Korean War

June 27 - National PTSD Awareness Day



#### PROCLAMATION

#### VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY March 29, 2022

WHEREAS, as we honor all the men and women who served in our nation's armed forces throughout history, Pennsylvania is proud to join in the national commemoration of Vietnam War Veterans Day; and

WHEREAS, this conflict defined an entire generation of Americans and numerous brave men and women served during the conflict, including 325,208 Pennsylvanians, of whom 3,147 Pennsylvanians were Killed in Action and eighty-nine are still unaccounted for; and

WHEREAS, as citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania we must never forget the pain and suffering that lingers today for the men and women who fought with honor and distinction, in the name of freedom and democracy for all; and

WHEREAS, we remember the men and women who so honorably served during more than a decade of fighting in challenging terrains of Southeast Asia, where they faced extraordinary and unprecedented dangers; we will never forget their sacrifice and we value their continued service to their fellow veterans today, as they embody the motto of the Vietnam Veterans of America: "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another;" and

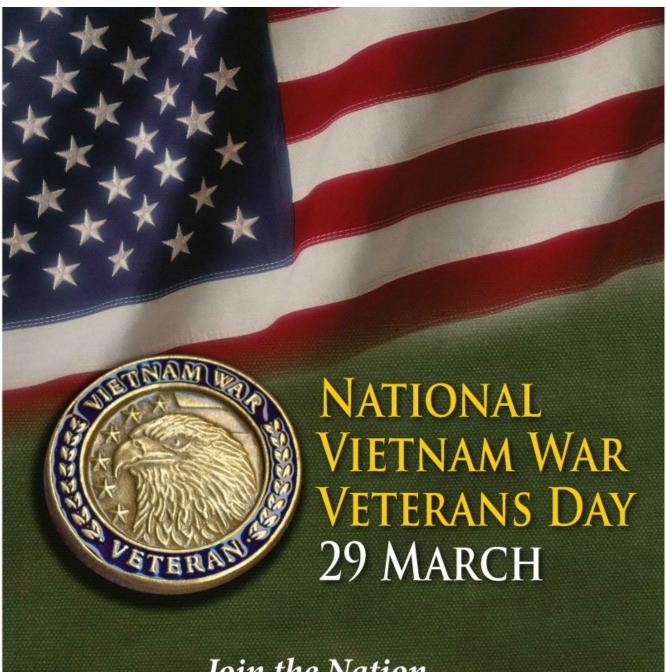
WHEREAS, since their return, these Veterans have contributed tremendously to their communities, the commonwealth, and the nation. They have displayed unparalleled support for those currently serving by providing welcoming celebrations for those returning and honors to those who have fallen; and

WHEREAS, through this commemoration the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and the Office of Veterans Affairs join with all citizens of this great state and nation to honor and remember our Vietnam Veterans and their families for their courage, sacrifice, and valor.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2022, as VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY. I encourage all citizens to participate in activities that bestow honor and commendation on American heroes past and present.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this tenth day of March two thousand twenty-two, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-sixth.

TOM WOLF



Join the Nation...
Thank a Vietnam Veteran
for Service to our Nation



U.S. Armed Forces personnel with active duty service between November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location of service.



vietnamwar50th.com

# Korean War Veterans of Lycoming County Washington D.C. Bus Trip

**To:** The Rededication of the Korean War Monument

When: July 27, 2022

**Open to:** Veterans and their spouse

**Deposit:** \$20.00 deposit is required with all reservations

# **Included in the cost**

Bus transportation
Box Lunch
Water

Contact Chaplain Frank Hartzel for more information or to register for the trip

(570-220-4806 or fhartzel2328@comcast.net)

We will stop on the way back for a dinner, dutch treat Don't wait - sign up.

# April 15th, 2022

Purple Up! For Military Kids Day

To show support

and

to thank

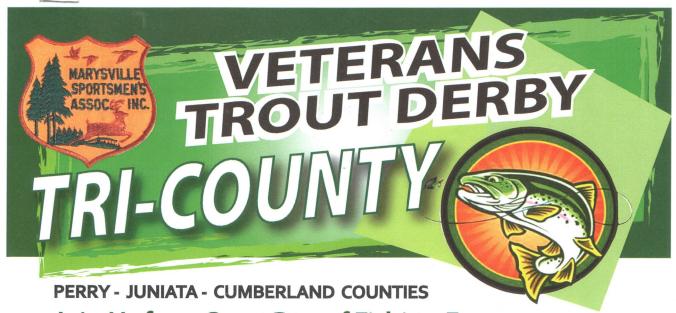
military children,

wear some purple on April 15th!

To learn more go to:

MilitaryBenefits.Com

www.dodea.edu/dodeaCelebrates/Military-Child-Month.cfm



Join Us for a Great Day of Fishing Fun Hosted by the Marysville Sportsman Association

Date of Derby will be

# **June 5th 2022**

Rain Date June 12th 2022 Register Time: 0800 to 0900 Fishing Time: 0900 to 1200

## Open to all Veterans

Registration is limited to the first 100 Veterans and you must be pre-registered to attend the event.

Due to limited space we ask that each Veteran limit their company to one caregiver.

Special cases will be considered.

Post-Derby meal provided on site for all veterans free of charge - meal will be served at 12:15 There will be a 5.00 dollar charge for all others.

Held at the Marysville Sportsman
Association Club Grounds
Located at
217 Kings Road
Marysville, PA 17053

And Register on-line at: https://davfishderby.weebly.com

Partnered with: DAV Chapter 49

https://wwwfacebook.com/dav.chapter 49

See us on Facebook at:

**Marysville Sportsmen's Association** 

Free Hats and T-shirt for all attending veterans. (disability restrooms available) Free transportation provided for those in need.

TO REGISTER BY PHONE - CALL: Steve at (717) 320-4105 or Jim at (985) 285-4923

Food Catered by; American Legion Post 177, Newport, PA and American Legion Post 674, Mount Holly Springs, PA



Greetings,

The Marysville Sportsmen's Association, Inc. would like to once again express our deepest thanks for your unwavering support of our local Veteran community during the Tri County Disabled Veterans Trout Derby in 2021.

For the 2021 Derby, we had 116 veterans who register for the event. During a recent meeting, we voted on the dates of Sundays, **June 5**<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of **June 12**<sup>th</sup> as the best dates for **2022**. Because of COVID 19, the decision was made to take the same precautions as we did in 2020 and 2021 by following whatever State mandates are in place.

This event, started in 2018, is a small token of our appreciation for those sacrifices our Veterans make every day. Every Veteran in attendance will be provided a Derby hat and T-Shirt and other small items to remember their fun times spent with other Veterans. Additionally, each Veteran will be provided a catered meal at the end of the Derby.

Again, we realize the recent pandemic may impact your support for this year's Derby and we understand. We are hoping that you would find it in your heart to support this initiative with whatever you can. With continued support of organizations like yours, this event will continue to grow.

Sponsors will receive recognition on our Website, Facebook page, as well as the many other media outlets in Juniata, Perry, and Cumberland Counties. Because of COVID 19 we are attempting to keep personal contact to a minimum. This year, we are mailing our support requests and hope you see the value in this simple mail in response. Simply fill out, detach, and send the form with your donation to the address listed below.

If you should have any questions feel free to contact Jim Broughton at (985) 285-4923. Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,

Jim Broughton/ MSA Trout Nursery Managers Founder: Tri County Veterans Trout Derby

Business Name:	
Address:	
Phone Number:	E-Mail:
Website:	Contact Name:
Amount Enclosed:	<u> </u>
Please Make Checks Payable to: M Address: Marysville Sportsmen's	aryville Sportsmen's Association Association, PO Box #1 Marysville, Pa 17053
Note: Referred by Rick	Olson VFW Post 477 Carliste

# Warm Up Shop

Not just for the cold months





# **Donations Welcomed!!!**

Are you Spring cleaning?
We are looking for clean, gently used or new clothes, jackets, scarves, gloves or other necessities.

Other items may include:

Blankets Hats

Walkers Canes

Clothes for interviews Etc.



Thank you!!!!









In need of a warm jacket or other necessity?



Come in for a visit, no appointment needed!



Items available vary!!





Christmas is year round—it's in our hearts and every child deserves a little Christmas.

Toys for Tots collects money all year to buy toys for children in need.

If you would like to help, please consider sending a check to:

Toys for Tots

507 Cemetery Street

Williamsport PA 17701

Visit their website: Williamsport-PA.ToysforTots.org

Or scan the image below for an online donation.







# Lycoming County Hometown Heroes, Inc. Hometown Heroes 2022 Streetlight Banner Program

Drop off Location :
Lycoming County Veterans Affairs Office
330 Pine Street, Suite 401
Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-327-2365

The Lycoming County Hometown Heroes, Inc. (LCHH) program serves as a tribute to recognize service men and women from the Lycoming County area who have served or are serving our country in a branch of the military.

Reserve your space starting on **January 1**, **2022**. Purchase deadline will be **September 2**, **2022**. Cost is \$210.00

Each individual banner will include the veteran's name, picture, branch of service, era of service and sponsor's name. The program is non-political and non-partisan.

Early Bird Special: Purchase Banner by April 1, 2022, and receive 15% off.

Early Bird Cost is \$178.50

Special Offer- With the purchase of this year's banner we are offering a garden flag for \$40.00. The garden flag will have the Veteran's name, branch of service, era of service and picture. This flag will fit on a normal garden flag holder.

#### The Hometown Heroes Banners:

- ★ Will be on display for **one** year
- ★ Will be located on street lights in Williamsport
- ★ Will be 18" wide and 36" high
- ★ Will include the sponsor's name prominently displayed at the bottom of the banner

# Lycoming County Hometown Heroes, Inc. Hometown Heroes, 2022 Streetlight Banner Program

# Ways to Sponsor a Banner

Family members and loved ones of veterans may purchase a banner themselves or obtain sponsorship by a local business. LCHH is not responsible for finding sponsorship for banners purchased by individuals, family members or loved ones.

Should a family wish to purchase a banner; the family name will appear on the banner in place of the business sponsorship name.

Businesses may sponsor a banner for a particular veteran by contacting Lycoming County Home Town Heroes Inc.

Cost of sponsorship for families, individuals and civic organizations and businesses is \$210.00.

Please make checks Payable to LCHH (Lycoming County Hometown Heroes).

# **Sponsorships Benefits include:**

Sponsor's name listed on each banner purchased
Participation in the Lycoming County Hometown Hero Ceremony
Listing in the Lycoming County Hometown Hero Ceremony Program Booklet

Lycoming County Hometown Heroes, Inc. is a not for profit, organization whose mission is to recognize the contributions of our veterans who served, promote role models for our youth, and provide assistance to veterans and their families in need.

All sponsorships are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

Not looking to Sponsor a Banner, Donations also accepted all year round.

Lycoming County Hometown Heroes, Inc. will make a good faith effort to hang banners on light poles in areas desirable to your business; <u>however, final placement is at LCHH's discretion</u>.

The banners will be provided to the sponsor of the banner at the end of the display year.

\*If the specific veteran is being honored, the sponsor must complete the sponsorship form. This helps to ensure that LCHH has the most accurate and correct information. Sponsorship forms CANNOT be completed by LCHH, or over the telephone. \*Forms MUST be fully completed to be accepted for sponsorship.

\*Please include the Veteran/ Family of Veteran's personal information so we are able to send the LCHH Ceremony information directly to them.

#### 2022 Hometown Heroes Banner Program

#### Hometown Hero Information (Please print) Submit an ORIGINAL PHOTO- it will be returned

Name of Veteran in Photo (as it should appear on banner):	
Is the Veteran? ALIVE DECEASED KIA	POW/MIA
Era of Service (WWI, WWII, etc.)**	Branch of Military:
Is this a Renewal? Yes No If so, are you us	ing the same Picture? Yes No
Sponsor's Name ( <u>as it should appear on banner</u> ):	
Name of person submitting photo:	Relationship to Veteran:
Veteran/ Family of Veteran's Information:	
Name:	Phone Number:
Address:	
PHOTO RELEASE I hereby grant Lycoming County Hometown Heroes, Inc. a likeness of me or of my relative) in the 2022 Williamspoother consideration.	
(Signature) (Dat	
SPECIAL OFFER- \$40.00 Garden Flag  Yes I want to include a garden flag for \$40.00 along with  No I do not wish to purchase a garden flag  BUSINESS SPONSOR (Please fill in this section	
Sponsor Name (as it should appear on banner):	
Contact Name:	
Phone Number:	
Yes, I will make a contribution to the Hometown Here Yes, I will sponsor a Banner  PLEASE MARK ONE - If sponsoring a banner but The Business would like the banner	do not have a veteran
**Era of Service - Official Depa	artment of Defense Dates **
	: September 11, 2001 - to present

Korean Conflict Era: June 27, 1950 - January 31, 1955

WW I Era: April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918

Persian Gulf: August 2, 1990 - August 31, 1991 Vietnam Era: February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975 WW II Era: December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1948

# You are getting an exam by the VA for a claim.

Now what?

The VA medical center or a VA contract vendor will contact you to conduct their exam.

Some of their vendors are:

**VES** - Veterans Evaluation Services

**LHI** - Logistics Health Incorporated, Optum Serve **QTC** - Quality. Timeliness. Customer Service.

If you missed the call

01

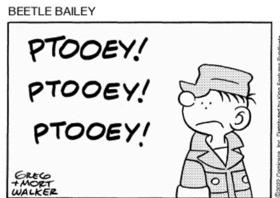
need to reschedule (give at least 48 hours notice):

LHI—866-933-8387

VES - 877-637-8387

QTC - 800-682-9701

Or call the VA at 800-827-1000 M-F 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.







# News Release

Office of Public Affairs Media Relations Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-7600 www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Feb. 25, 2022

## VA outlines new goals towards ending Veteran homelessness

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough established new goals in VA's efforts to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans.

During his visit, Feb. 25, McDonough participated in the local Point-in-Time Count and announced the following action being taken in the Greater Los Angeles (GLA) area:

- Placing at least 1,500 Veterans experiencing homelessness into permanent housing, which would represent a greater than 10% increase in permanent housing placements since calendar year 2021.
- Increasing the percentage of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers under lease to at least 75%, which would represent the highest voucher utilization rate since 2018.
- Increasing to 50% the percentage of Veterans admitted to HUD-VASH who are housed within 90 days.

Reaching these goals in calendar year 2022 would mark GLA's best outcomes helping Veterans exit homelessness and remain in stable housing in several years and would represent a clear and substantial improvement on Veteran homelessness locally.

"The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and our partners have a shared belief that all Veterans deserve a place to call home," said the authority's Executive Director Heidi Marston. "We are eager to support VA in its effort to provide permanent and stable homes for 1,500 Veterans."

In October, after seeing a homeless Veteran encampment on San Vicente Boulevard, near the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center, McDonough set a goal to house 500 Veterans by the end of 2021. The VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System exceeded that goal through a variety of temporary, transitional and permanent housing programs. Veterans also enrolled in supportive programs that help with the transition to permanent housing.

To increase housing stock dedicated to Veterans experiencing homelessness, VA and HUD will support the state of California and Project Homekey by committing available HUD-VASH vouchers housing projects awarded throughout the state. There are more than 5,000 HUD-VASH vouchers currently available for use in California. This approach creates new housing stock for Veterans while addressing the underutilization of this valuable resource that makes market rate housing affordable for <a href="eligible">eligible</a> Veterans.

"Due to significant investments from Congress in the last three years, we have substantial resources to invest in homeless prevention," McDonough said. "We also have proven strategies that have not only decreased the number of homeless Veterans, but also prevented Veterans and their families from experiencing homelessness in the first place. What remains is the energy and effort needed to finish the job. These initiatives will help us get there."

Nationally, VA and its community partners will place at least 38,000 Veterans experiencing homelessness into permanent housing in calendar year 2022. This represents an increase of more than 10% over the number of Veterans placed in permanent housing in 2021.

The number of Veterans experiencing homelessness in the U.S. has declined by nearly half since 2010 with more than 920,000 Veterans and their family members permanently housed or prevented from becoming homeless since then.

Veterans experiencing homelessness should visit their <u>local VA medical center</u> for assistance. Find the nearest <u>VA medical center</u>. For immediate assistance, contact the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET or 877-424-3838.

HHH

# If you are Homeless or behind on your rent call: 211

Or call the Veterans Multi-Service center directly: 844-226-0368 717-818-0219

8 North Grove Street, Suite 2 Lock Haven, PA



# **News Release**

Office of Public Affairs Media Relations Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-7600 www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 1, 2022

# VA will propose adding rare cancers to the presumed service-connected list as related to military environmental exposure

**WASHINGTON** — The Department of Veterans Affairs intends to propose adding certain rare respiratory cancers to the list of <u>presumed</u> <u>service-connected disabilities</u> in relation to military environmental exposure to particulate matter.

VA determined through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence there is biologic plausibility between airborne hazards, specifically particulate matter, and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract, and that the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection.

Based on these findings, VA's Secretary is proposing a rule that will add presumptive service connection for several rare respiratory cancers for certain Veterans. The cancers under consideration include:

- · Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
- · Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
- · Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

"This is the right decision. The rarity and severity of these illnesses, and the reality that these conditions present a situation where it may not be possible to develop additional evidence prompted us to take this critical action," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We'll continue to hold ourselves accountable to Veterans to provide more care, more benefits and more services to more Veterans than ever before."

VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations. VA will invite and consider public comments as part of this process.

Once rulemaking is complete, VA will conduct outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility.

###

# 3/14/2022

# These are proposed additions.

As of the printing of the newsletter, they have not been approved.





# U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration

# Post-9/11 GI Bill: Factors to Consider

#### Factors for Veterans and Service Members to Consider When Choosing Which GI Bill Benefit to Use

Many Veterans and Service members are eligible for a variety of education benefit programs. They include:

- Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)
- Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB-AD, Chapter 30)
- Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR, Chapter 1606)
- Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP, Chapter 1607)
- Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP)

Consider these questions before choosing the most appropriate VA education benefit:

- Which benefit would pay you more?
- Are you receiving other aid and will that entitlement change?
- Which Post-9/11 GI Bill tier are you eligible for?
- How much of the training will be online?
- Where will the training take place?
- Is the time limit for using the benefit important?
- Are you a member of the Armed Forces or a Veteran?
- Are you eligible for Transfer of Entitlement? Do you want to transfer entitlement?
- Do you have remaining entitlement under other VA education programs?

Our Education Call Center is available at 1-888-442-4551 (Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. -6 p.m. CST) for any questions about GI Bill benefits.

More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill



# **Lycoming County Veterans Affairs**



# **VA Education and Training Benefits**

What	Montgomery GI Bill	DEA	Educational Gratuity				
	Post 9/11 GI Bill	Dependent Educational Assistance					
Eligibility	Most Veterans	<ul> <li>Veteran must be 100% total and</li> </ul>	permanent disability or				
		must have Individual Unemploya	ability				
		Honorable Discharge					
		<ul><li>Killed in action or died in service</li></ul>	result of wounds incurred				
		in service during a period or war	or armed conflict or as				
		result of hostile fire or terrorist a	attack during peacetime, as				
		determined by the Department					
		<ul> <li>Additional Criteria on application</li> </ul>					
Who is it	For Veterans	For Dependents	For Dependents				
for	Or must have been	(child/spouse/widow/widower)	(child/spouse/				
	transferred to		widow/widower)				
	Dependent while		Must be approved				
	Veteran in service		for DEA first				
Point of	Contact VA School Rep	Contact VA School Rep	VA School Rep will direct				
Contact		County VA has applast choice	to County VA				
Additional	GI Bill Hotline:	<ul><li>Once approved for DEA,</li></ul>	➤ Up to \$500 per				
Info	888-GIBILL-1	dependent student must be	semester				
	(888-442-4551)	removed from Veteran's claim.	school Financial Aid				
	Students Outside the	A letter should be sent from	Office will determine				
	U.S.:	the VA to remind Veteran to	how funds will be				
	+1-918-781-5678	follow up with this.	dispersed				
		36 or 48 months, depending on service	> 4 scholastic year max				

VA benefits hotline: 800-827-1000 MyVA411 main information line: 800-698-2411

If you have hearing loss, call TTY: 711.

https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/ https://www.va.gov/education/

#### BEETLE BAILEY





# U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals

### Delayed Notification January 2022

#### Overview

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) is no longer experiencing delays in providing Veterans and their representatives notice of their hearings, decisions, and other mailed correspondence. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board transitioned from in-house mailing to mailing through the Government Printing Office (GPO). GPO is operating with a significant delay in printing and shipping correspondence due to staffing shortages. This delay impacted the Board's ability to mail correspondence in a timely manner from July 13, 2021, through December 31, 2021. Impacted Veterans are invited to request that the Board consider a previous submission that was not addressed or reconsider a prior determination that a submission was untimely.

#### Recalculation of Previous Submissions

If you believe that the Board's failure to address a prior submission or determination that a submission was untimely was a result of the delay in the mailing of correspondence or notice to you or your representative, you may ask the Board to reconsider its determination. Please indicate in your correspondence that you are submitting a request for reconsideration/ recalculation of a timeliness determination due to the mail delay, and identify the date of the specific submission(s) you are requesting the Board consider as timely. You are encouraged to submit any evidence, including a statement, relevant to the mailing date of the Board correspondence or notice at issue.

#### For additional assistance

 If you would like to check the status of your appeal, please visit <u>www.va.qov/claim-or-appeal-status</u>.

# Searching for a kidney donor

Tom, an Airforce veteran, a retired air traffic controller, an avid hunter and fisherman, now sleeps upwards of 13 hours a day.

Tom is in stage 5 kidney disease.

He and his wife Sue, are hoping to find a kidney donor.

#### How can you help? : Become a living donor.

Tom is on the wait list for both Geisinger and UPMC Pittsburg.

Type O+, but compatible with A+, B+ and AB+

If you are accepted, but not a match for Tom, by donating to another person in need, you could help move Tom up on the wait list that is several years long.

### Go to one of the below links and List Tom Allen as the recipient:

https://www.geisinger.org/patient-care/conditions-treatments-specialty/kidney-transplant

or

https://www.upmc.com/services/transplant/kidney-pancreas/living-donor

#### **Questions:**

Tom or Sue Allen McEllhattan, Pa 570-660-3552 tallen45992038@com

Sincere thanks, Tom and Sue

THE LYCOMING VET PAGE 22



# HORSES HEALING HEROES

Location: Elysian Fields Equestrian Center o 1345 Tallman Hollow Road, Montoursville o 570-975-4991

Elysian Fields Equestrian Center has chosen the 22nd of every month, from 6pm until complete to hold a simple get together for Veterans, First Responders and Law Enforcement. All Veterans, Law Enforcement and First Responders are welcome to attend. FREE of charge!! Feel free to bring your families and children, they are your support network after all!

The 22nd is chosen in remembrance for the 22 Veterans a day who succumb to their battles at home, after the battles abroad. Come home, feel unfocused, without direction or purpose, unappreciated or for whatever other reason decide those around them would be better off without them. This is the WRONG answer! No doubt, Law Enforcement and First Responders see disheartening scenes as well and we welcome them as part of the group. We are here to get together and remind one another that we do matter and that we are here for one another. And, to show how equine therapy can also help us to release and reconnect while we share the experience with one another.

There will be interaction with horses in our large indoor arena. Steel toe boots are recommended, sneakers are okay, no open shoes/sandals. We will be indoors but not climate controlled so dress for the temperature. Bring carrots/apples if you like to treat the horses. We will also supply as much as we can.

We will try to serve enough refreshments and encourage anyone coming to bring a plate. As this grows and becomes more popular, we will be able to anticipate better what to provide. We look forward to seeing you and watching this event grow into something to look forward to every month.

Don't forget to check on your Battle Buddies. One phone call can mean it all!









www.Facebook.com/6H.EFEC

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

www.sungazette.com

\$1.00 Newsstand

# **GOOD WILL HUNTING**







# **Hunters raise** funds for PA **Wounded Warriors**

DAVE KENNEDY/Sun-Gazette

Early Saturday afternoon, 51 teams of squirrel hunters made their way back to the Wal-

Run Rod MORE COVERAGE Trout Run after needs at Gifford Pinchot the morning's hunt. The teams

and Gun club in DCNR discusses infrastructure

> See B1

of two hunters stood in a long line next to a crackling bonfire to have their take weighed. Some hunters came back empty-handed, and some brought back nearly a dozen gray, black and red squirrels to be weighed. The organizers of the event started work before dawn that morning to make breakfast and then lunch for the hunters. This was the club's 3rd annual event, held to support the Pa. Wounded Warriors. Fifty percent of the proceeds went to support that charitable organization. All told, the hunters were able to raise \$6,000. Two wounded warriors participated in the event - Josh Rockwell, of Montoursville, and Chris Boyer, of Montgomery. Both were victims of IEDs.



# Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 press 1

Confidential help for Veterans and their families

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net
Or
Text to 838255

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

Commercial: 570-824-3521 Utilization Management - EXT. 27258

24 hr/7 days a week Health Benefits Advisor, Administrative Officer On Duty - EXT. 27140



CreatiVets' mission is to provide combat veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress and traumatic brian injury with opportunities to use art, music and creative writing to heal their unseen wounds of war.

Our goal is to empower veterans with tools they can use for the rest of their lives and enable them to see their own capacity for success in an areana outside the battle field.

#### LEARN MORE AT:

www.creativets.org

Facebook: facebook.com/creativeterans

Instagram: @creativets Twitter: @creativets1

Or e-mail at info@creativets.org

# THE ISSUE

- ★ Every year, according to the Department of Defense, approximately one in five post-9/11 veterans are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- ★ About 12% of Gulf War veterans and 15% of Vietnam veterans also struggle with post-traumatic stress in a given year, and between 50,000 to 400,000 veterans may suffer from the effects of a traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- ★ The social and economic costs of post-traumatic stress and TBI are immense, and the Department of Veteran Affairs reported in July 2016 that the veteran suicide rate in the United States averages 20 suicides per day.
- ★ Veterans now account for 18% of all suicides in America, despite making up less than 9% of the population.

[1] US Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Suicide Prevention. (2016). Suicide Among Veterans and Other Americans: 2001-2014. Retrieved from https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/2016suicidedatareport.pdf 4/2/2018
[2] Malchiodi, C. A. (2005). Expressive therapies. New York: Guilford Press.

# ART+MUSIC=HEALING







We currently offer two programs: the Combat Veteran Songwriting Program in Nashville, TN and two Introduction to Art for Combat Veterans summer programs held at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Each program focuses on storytelling through the arts as a way to recover from traumatic experiences, to promote healing, and to provide tools the veterans can use in combatting stress, depression, and other effects of war.

"I STRONGLY BELIEVE EVERY VETERAN SHOULD TELL THEIR STORY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR LOVED ONES.... I DIDN'T WANT TO REVISIT THE SAD FEELINGS OR HORRIFIC MEMORIES. IT WASN'T UNTIL AFTER I BEGAN TO TELL MY STORY [THROUGH ART] THAT I FELT A SENSE OF RELIEF FROM SOME OF THE GRIEF I HELD INSIDE."

- Veteran Participant, Introduction to Art for Combat Veterans

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

#### VETERAN REFERRALS

If you know of a veteran who might benefit from our programs, please let the veteran know about us (or let us know if you'd like us to reach out directly). We want to make sure every soldier gets the care he or she needs, and if we can't help, we'll work to find the resources that can.

#### **FUNDING**

We rely on the generosity of individual donors, grants, and corporate sponsors to fund our programs, and work diligently to be good fiscal stewards of your dollars. If you have a heart for veterans, the arts, or both, please consider making a donation, hosting a fundraiser, or sponsoring a program. The total cost to send a veteran through the Combat Veteran Songwriting Program is approximately \$2,400. The total cost to send a veteran through the Introduction to Art for Combat Veterans program is approximately \$5,500.

In addition to tuition, art supplies, instruments, and any other required materials, all CreatiVets programs include the costs of travel, transportation, meals, and lodging. Veterans who participate are not expected to pay for anything.

#### INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF CREATIVETS

When CreatiVets expanded the art program to a second campus, enrollment maxed out almost immediately. As of 2018, both summer programs will be led in part by CreatiVets alumni who are continuing their own healing process by helping other veterans find what they've already discovered—a path to healing, a place to start, and companions for the journey.

Along with this increased demand and the the consistent interest of CreatiVets alumni, plans for additional programs at other colleges and universities are underway.

While we will continue conducting these successful summer programs, we will work to increase enrollment (while keeping class sizes appropriate). We are also in the process of initiating additional winter programs, introducing a film program (we are currently talking with UCLA, USC, Stanford, and Berkley about launching the program), planning to undertake an ambitious art/travel program for Vietnam veterans.

The flexibility and growth opportunities of our peer-to-peer approach offer limitless possibilities. Ideally, veterans who complete a CreatiVets art or songwriting program will take what they've learned back to their own communities and spread the word. Our community programs are designed to offer veterans who are seeking relief for their symptoms of depression and post-traumatic stress a taste of what a full CreatiVets program has to offer.

cont. on page 11

#### INFORMATIONAL AWARENESS

Social media, email, and even word-or-mouth are powerful ways to share information with family, friends, co-workers, acquaintances, or whoever! If you love what we do, please tell others, follow and share our posts on social media, and connect us with resources that can help promote our mission and efforts

Sun Gazette 1/7/2022

# Oldest US veteran of WWII, Lawrence N. Brooks, dies at 112

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Lawrence N. Brooks, the oldest World War II veteran in the U.S. — and believed to be the oldest man in the country — died on Wednesday at the age of 112.

His death was announced by the National WWII Museum and confirmed by his daughter.

Born on Sept. 12, 1909, he was known for his good-natured sense of humor, positivity and kindness. When asked for his secret to a long life, he often said, "serving God and being nice to people."

"I don't have no hard feelings toward nobody," he said during a 2014 oral history interview with the museum. "I just want everything to be lovely, to come out right. I want people to have fun and enjoy themselves — be happy and not sad."

On sunny days, Brooks was known for sitting on the front porch of the double shotgun house he shared with daughter Vanessa Brooks in the Central City neighborhood of New Orleans. Neighbors would call out to the local celebrity, wave and bring him snacks.

Brooks was passionate about the New Orleans Saints football team and never missed a game, his daughter said. His church, St. Luke's Episcopal, was also close to his heart and he never missed a Sunday service until the coronavirus pandemic hit.

Originally from Norwood, Louisiana, near Baton Rouge, Brooks' family moved to the Mississippi Delta when he was an infant. He was one of 15 children, and lived too far from the nearest school, so his parents taught him at home.

Brooks was working at a sawmill when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1940. After Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, he was assigned to the mostly Black 91st Engineer General Service Regiment stationed in Australia.

Later in the war, troop losses virtually forced the military to begin placing more African American troops into combat positions. In 1941, fewer than 4,000 African Americans were serving in the military. By 1945, that number



increased to more than 1.2 million.

The 91st was an Army unit that built bridges, roads and airstrips for planes. Brooks was assigned as a caretaker to three white officers. His job was to cook, drive and take care of their clothes.

Brooks did not often speak publicly about the discrimination he and other Black soldiers faced in the war, or the discrimination his family faced in the Jim Crow Deep South, his daughter said.

Col. Pete Crean, vice president of education and access at the museum in New Orleans, who got to know Brooks and his family through his work at the museum, said Brooks did talk about noticing how much better he was treated as a Black man in Australia compared with the U.S. But Brooks told Crean thinking about it would make him angry, so he tried not to.

During his oral history interview, Brooks said the officers he cared for treated him well and he considered himself fortunate not to have to fight in combat.

"I got lucky. I was saying to myself, 'If I'm going to be shooting at somebody, somebody's going to be shooting at me and he might get lucky and hit," he said.

He often told the story of a time when he was a passenger in a C-47 aircraft delivering a load of barbed wire to the front when one of the transport plane's engines went out.

After they dumped the cargo to conserve weight, he made his way to the cockpit. He told the pilot and ASSOCIATED PRESS

World War II
veteran Lawrence Brooks
sports a lipstick
kiss, planted by
a member of the
singing group
Victory Belles, as
he celebrates his
110th birthday
at the National
World War II
Museum, New
Orleans, in 2019.

co-pilot that since they were the only two with parachutes, if they had to jump for it, he was going to grab on to one of them.

"We made it, though," he said during the 2014 interview, laughing. "We had a big laugh about that."

Despite not being in combat, Brooks did experience enemy fire during the war. He said the Japanese would sometimes bomb Owen Island, where he worked. He said he learned to tell the difference between the sounds of Japanese, American and German planes approaching.

"We'd be running like crazy, trying to hide," he said. They had to dig foxholes to protect themselves.

He was discharged from the Army in August 1945 as a private first class.

When he returned from service, he worked as a forklift driver until retiring in his 60s. He has five children, five stepchildren, and dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He lost his wife, Leona, shortly after Hurricane Katrina.

That 2005 disaster destroyed his home. Then in his late 90s, he was evacuated from his home's roof via helicopter. His daughter described him as "resilient."

"He's been through a lot. He's real tough, and that's one thing I learned from him. If nothing else, he instilled in me, 'Do your best and whatever you can't do, it don't make no sense to worry about it," she told the AP. "I think that's why he has lived as long as he has."

The Lycoming County Veterans Affairs Office is grateful to be the home of many donated items. Please feel welcome to visit our office and view the display.

Thank you to the families that have entrusted us with not only their family's history, but pieces of our collective history.

Thank you.







# LYCOMING COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK WILLIAMSPORT, PA

Honor or memorialize a Veteran with a personalized brick permanently placed within the renovated walkways of the Lycoming County Veterans Memorial Park, located at West Fourth Street and Wahoo Drive, Williamsport, PA.

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Ma	ke chec	ks payabl	e to: Lyc	oming	County	Vete	rans N	lemoria	al Park			

# **VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK OF PICTURE ROCKS**

A 501 © (3) Non-Profit Corporation

#### PERSONALIZED VETERAN BRICK ORDER FORM

Honor or memorialize a Veteran with a personalized brick permanently placed within the walkways of the newly constructed Veterans Memorial Park of Picture Rocks. ALL Veterans, not just those from Picture Rocks, are eligible to have a brick.

The park is located on South Main Street (US Route 220) in Pictures Rocks, Pennsylvania.

Bricks may be engraved with three (3) lines of text. Each line can accommodated a maximum of eighteen (18) characters (which includes letters, punctuation and spaces.)

The \$50.00 price includes the cost of one brick with three lines of engraving and a tax deductible donation of \$32.00.

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Please submit your completed brick order form, along with a check for the amount of \$50.00, to the following address:

Veterans Memorial Park of Picture Rocks, Inc P.O. Box 410 Picture Rocks, Pa 17762-0410

Checks are payable to the Veterans Memorial Park of Picture Rocks, Inc.

# **Events:**

# **Veterans Breakfasts**

Grim's Diner Hillside Assisted Living Community

5849 Warrensville Road 2725 Four Mile Drive

8:00 a.m. 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

2nd Monday of every month 1st Tuesday of every month

\$8.00 Free

# **Past Event:**

# Valentines for Vets a success!!!

Over 1,500 valentines were collected. They went to the Wilkes Barre VA, Valley View, Muncy Place and Wolf Run.

Thank you so much for the overwhelming participation!!!

Thank you again!

Sue A Clayton
Deputy Director
Lycoming County Domestic Relations





# 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

#### **American Legion Post 35-**

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

#### American Legion Post 36 -

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

#### **American Legion Post 104 -**

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

#### **American Legion Post 251 -**

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

#### **American Legion Post 268 -**

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

#### American Legion Post 617 -

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

#### Blue Star Mothers of America Inc. -

Chapter 12 P.O. Box 851

Williamsport, PA 17703

Phone: 570-772-4638

#### United States Submarine Veterans Inc.-

Williamsport Base

Mailing: 160 North Broad St, Hughesville, PA 17737 Meeting Location: Zafar Gorotto Club 381 E. 2nd St, S. Williamsport, PA 17702 Phone: 570-244-1351

#### VFW Post 3428-

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

#### VFW Post 5859-

Billy O. Brandt Post 201 N. Lincoln Ave., Jersey Shore, PA 17740 Phone: 570-8656216

#### VFW Post 7863-

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

#### Forty & Eight Voiture 382

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

# Susquehanna Valley Chapter 47 of The Disabled American Veterans

P.O. Box 3372, Williamsport, PA 17701 Phone: 570-971-5889

# Williamsport Detachment 388 Marine Corp League Inc.

507 Cemetery Street, 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)

## Lycoming County Veterans Council Inc.

C/O 2310 Newberry Street Williamsport, PA 17701 570-220-8156 THE LYCOMING VET PAGE 35

# Your Reps in Washington & Harrisburg



#### U.S. Representative Fred Keller — 12th 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://keller.house.gov/

Washington, DC Office 202-225-3731

Selinsgrove Office 570-374-9469

Tunkhannock Office 570-996-6550



#### PA State Senator Gene Yaw — Senate District 23

175 Pine Street, Suite 105362 Main CapitolWilliamsport, PA 17701Senate Box 203023

Phone: 570-322-6457 Harrisburg, Pa 17120-3023 Fax: 570-327-3703 Phone: 717-787-3280 Toll-free: 1-800-443-5772 Fax: 717-772-0575

Website: <a href="http://senatorgeneyaw.com/">http://senatorgeneyaw.com/</a> TTY: 800-364-1581

Email: gyaw@pasen.gov



#### PA State Representative Joe Hamm — 84th Legislative District

274 Broad Street Tiadaghton Valley Mall

Montoursville, Pa 17754 Room 105

Jersey Shore, PA 17740 Phone: 570-546-2084 Phone: 570-398-4476 Fax: 570-368-5668 Fax: 570-398-5963

Website: http://www.repjoehamm.com/ Email: jhamm@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: 717-787-2885

**Office Hours: M-F 8:30-4:30** 

Website: <a href="www.repwheeland.com">www.repwheeland.com</a> Email: jwheeland@pahousegop.com

Not sure who your representative is? Find out at:

http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/county

list.cfm?CNTYLIST=LYCOMING

# ROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:

Then you may be eligible for real estate tax exemption and free hunting and fishing licenses.

Call 570-327-2365 for more information.

60% - 99% - ask about reduced hunting and fishing licenses.

# ROM THE LYCOMING COUNTY VA OFFICE:



Would you like to have a VA Benefit Seminar at a Nursing Home, Legion, VFW, or Other Organization? Have Mike 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.



In ome Loans? Contact Bob Brown, VA Loan Officer at Best American Mortgage Company.

Phone: 484-494-6593

Web: www.BESTPALOAN.COM

\*Licensed by the PA Dept. of

Banking\*

\*call for information on eligibility

\*call for COEs

\*call even if you've had bankruptcy or been denied

# 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 Keely Hitchens at the Veterans Affairs Office.

570-327-2365

# **ID Card Office Online**

Are you active duty or retired from active duty or a dependent of an active duty/active duty retiree, or do you have a 100% total and permanent VA disability rating?

Do you need an ID card?

Go to: https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/

#### This is for the RAPIDS ID Card Office Online (IDCO) home page.

It is the access point to all IDCO functions.

From this page you can access the ID Card Office Locator, CAC Maintenance, Family/Sponsor update, and My Profile functionality.

The IDCO home page is publicly accessible.

Accessing certain functions from the Home page will require CAC or DS Logon.

Contact them for additional assistance or to report problems, please call:

Toll Free: 800-538-9522 Commercial: 505-335-9980

# **Community Care**

https://www.va.govhttps://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/index.asp/

# **Overview**

VA provides health care for Veterans from providers in your local community outside of VA. Veterans may be eligible to receive care from a community provider when VA cannot provide the care needed.

This care is provided on behalf of and paid for by VA.

Community care is available to Veterans based on certain conditions and eligibility requirements, and in consideration of a Veteran's specific needs and circumstances.

THE LYCOMING VET PAGE 38

# 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 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Scheduled appointments only

**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. 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

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# The Lycoming County CareerLink office is located at: 329 Pine Street in Williamsport

#### **Hours**:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday - 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Phone:** 570-601-5465

For a dedicated professional to help veterans find job opportunities:

Contact: Timothy French
Phone: 570-601-5934
E-mail: tifrench@pa.gov
Online: pacareerlink.pa.gov

# Do you know about VRRAP? Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP)

The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) offers education and training for high-demand jobs to Veterans who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Go online or visit Pennsylvania Career Link to learn more!

https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/

## Lycoming County Office of Veterans Affairs

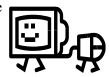
330 Pine Street Williamsport, PA 17701 Suite 401 Executive Plaza Building

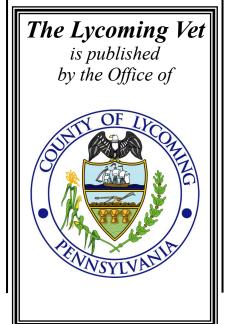
Mailing Address: 48 West Third Street Williamsport, PA 17701 570-327-2365

County Commissioners
Scott Metzger,
Chairman
Tony R. Mussare,
Vice Chairman
Richard Mirabito,
Secretary

# Visit Our Web Site: Www.lyco.org/VA

For up-to-date News and Information For Veterans





# We are here to help you, please call 570-327-2365 to schedule an appointment.

Fully accredited as a Veterans Service Officers by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

## W. Michael McMunn Director of Veterans Affairs

wmcmunn@lyco.org

• US Army

Natalie S. Steppe Assistant Director of Veterans Affairs nsteppe@lyco.org

> James Mitchley Assistant of Veterans Affairs imitchley@lyco.org

> > US Army

## **Office Hours**

Scheduled Appointments on: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 AM — 5:00 PM

> Walk-Ins Welcomed on Wednesday No Comp. or Pension Claims. No Appointment needed Information ONLY 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Closed weekends and major holidays.

#### The Lycoming County VA Office Will Be Closed:

Good Friday - Friday, April 15, 2022 Memorial Day - Monday, May 30, 2022 Independence Day - Monday, July 4, 2022