

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL
AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN COMMITTEE REPORT
JUNE 25, 2017

Michael Eckstein, Chair

Owen Martin, Vice-Chair

WE will be hosting an Agent Orange/Dioxin information area at the Moving Wall in West Orange. We have VVA AO Self Help Guides and the small folders with similar information as the Guide. Owen and myself will be there for the time that the Wall is in West Orange.

THE VA still has not added the illnesses that were recommended by the Institute of Medicine in their Report released in 2015. The three are Hypothyroidism, Bladder Cancer and Disorders that include Parkinson's like symptoms. We are still awaiting some type of action on the recently passed All Veterans Bill and the "Agent Orange" Research section. I know that we are years away from appointing the 13 unpaid Advisors (3 of which will be from Veterans Organizations)

THE Birth Defects Research for Children has some very interesting statistics from their Birth Defects Registry. They can be found at www.birthdefects.org.

Children of Vietnam Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, Wives or Widows of Vietnam Veterans their adult guests, and Veteran's Community and related activists are invited to join **COVVHA** (Children of Vietnam Veterans Health Alliance) at our first annual conference in Washington DC, October 2017. Why such a conference?

To strengthen Agent Orange activism and cooperation within our community.

To educate people about Agent Orange and the lingering shadow of the Vietnam War.

To encourage others to tell and share their story

To create a vision for future generations
To acknowledge the sacrifices and losses of our community.
To meet, share, laugh, create and heal.
To understand we are not alone
To visit the Vietnam Memorial together

Children of Vietnam veterans have the distinction of being the children of veterans of an unpopular war. We had a vastly different experience than the children of veterans of wars both before and after our parents came home from Vietnam. We not only understand this difference, but we are always ready to support each other; no matter the background we come from. We are a community in and of ourselves. This conference is all about that community, talking about the health issues that we experience in higher numbers than those who are not children of Vietnam Veterans, to meet each other in person, learn from our speakers, to heal ourselves and create a path for continued activism. We want to extend the welcome to Vietnam Veterans, and their wives/widows, and Veteran's community activists.

MIKE