



Vietnam Veterans Chapter 899 West Central District

P.O. Box 263
Bordentown, New Jersey 08505
THE BROTHERHOOD AT FIREBASE 899



238/36

NEWSLETTER – March-April 2020

CHAPTERS OFFICERS

Bill West	President	856-313-3909	tonto21449@yahoo.com
Alan Kirchoff	1 st Vice President	609 410-1428	alan@vva899.org
Dale Watson	2 nd Vice President	609-259-2691	dmw20@optonline.net
Ordway Van Hee	3 rd Vice President	609-504-2847	ovanhee@gmail.com
Don Mohr	Treasurer	609-947-6943	donm0120@verizon.net
John Lesko	Secretary	609-790-4759	lesko@vva899.org
Louis Kocsis	Sergeant of Arms	609-499-0812	luc1558army@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Lynn Gsell	609-261-6150	fishinlynn@verizon.net
Brian DuMont	609-392-0282	doowopdm@msn.com
Tony Laudicina	856-234-0554	tlaudicina@comcast.net
Mel Waring	609-877-6736	warling82@yahoo.com
John Belch	609-864-5171	residentsplash@yahoo.com (Alternate)
Ted Yadlosky	609-894-9572	mry48@yahoo.com (Alternate)
James Dixon	609-298-3398	jdixonsr@comcast.net
Bill Carlin	609 790-4210	wdcarlin@yahoo.com

STATE DELEGATES

Brian DuMont
John Lesko

Chapters Chaplain

Bill Carlin 609-790-4210
wdcarlin@yahoo.com

AL. STATE DELEGATES

Don Mohr
Alan Kirchoff
Tony Laudicina

NATIONAL DELEGATE

Don Mohr
Alan Kirchoff
John Lesko
Dale Watson

AVVA Representative

Betty Kleber 609-649-4608
kleber619@msn.com



VIETNAM VETERANS CHAPTER 899 PEER GROUP COUNSELING FOR PTSD, THE MEETINGS FOR NOW ARE MONDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM AT THE GARDEN STATE DINER ON ROUTE 537. ANYONE THAT WAS IN ANY OF TONY CAPONE'S COUNSELING GROUPS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US. TONY CAPONE WILL BE OUR MEDIATOR FOR ALL THE MEETINGS. DON'T SUFFER ALONE; HELP IS A PHONE CALL AWAY. PRESIDENT BILL WEST OF CHAPTER 899, 856-313-3909. AS IN COMBAT WE TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER. PRESENTLY WE ARE 260 MEMBERS STRONG AND GROWING.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

MARCH

MAR 24 BOD 1PM (cancelled)

MAR 28 MEETING 12PM TO 5PM (cancelled)

April

Apr21 BOD 1PMm (to be confirmed)

Apr 25 Meeting 12PM to 5 PM (to be confirmed)

AVVA is the extended family of VVA.

We are made up of Veterans of all eras, families and friends of Veterans and all persons who support Veterans' issues.

AVVA members do a great job in supporting VVA 899.

Thank you all so very much!

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or if you know of anyone interested in joining Chapter 899 AVVA.

Betty Kleber, AVVA Representative

kleber619@msn.com



MESSAGES

From President Bill West

Bill asked me to pass along to each of you his wishes for a Healthy time, as we go through "COVID 19" cease of normality. Out monthly meeting, EBoard meeting, Monday AM Peer group sessions are all on hold. Bill wants to remind you that we are mostly in the category they now call "medically fragile". That means if we should get the virus, it could involve complications. Stay Home, Wash your hands. We will get thru this.

From Our Chaplain Bill Carlin I hope everyone is well, the last news letter I sent I said As we get older things tend to get more difficult. Wow! I never expected a pandemic. We must as a group of veterans who have seen much hardship in our lives to know one thing for sure is that it's time to turn up the prayer. Ask the good lord to help us through this world crisis and he will answer. Knock and you will receive. Here is a good prayer - O Lord hear my prayer and let my cry come to you. Hide not your face from us in these days of distress, but incline your ear to us in the day when we call. Answer us speedily! God bless you all!

From Director Jim Dixon The PTSD SUPPORT GROUP in Wrightstown NJ continues to be shut down for the next few weeks. We hope to convene by the end of April or early May, but that will be determined by government actions. I request you let me know about illnesses or the passing of any veterans you have in your communications. Contact me at 609-577-4849 or jdixonsr@comcast.net. In the meantime stay well, pray and God bless you and your families.



Brother Charlie Davies On Sunday February 9, 2020 President of SC State Council Sam Brick sworn in the officers for a 2 year term on the SC State Council Board. From left to right - Larry Miller (Chapter 1049) 1st Vice President, John Gossett (Chapter 925) Treasurer, Walter (Jerry) Brock (Chapter 523) Secretary, and Charles Davies (Chapter 925) 2nd Vice President.

Charlie is the short one, on the right. (kidding Charlie, we miss you)

Urgent Care Transition for Region 1 Effective March 18, the VA moved its urgent care network manager from TriWest Healthcare Alliance to Optum Public Sector Solutions, Inc., in Community Care Network Region 1. As a result of the change, new urgent care providers will be added to VA's contracted network, while others will be removed. The change occurs for veterans in the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia. Veterans in these states who need urgent care should use VA's facility locator <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/> or contact their local VA medical facility for help identifying in-network urgent care providers.





A military brat by birth, Joe Tamayo was born at Naval Air Station in Meridian, Mississippi on September 26th 1928. To Simon Sanchez Tamayo and Viola Jones Harris. As tensions began to rise on the Korean Peninsula, the United States took steps to build up its ground forces by drafting young men into the Army. Joe was drafted into the Army and was sent to Korea. He served five tours in Korea and earned the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat during the battle for Port Chop Hill. After leaving Korea, he served two tours of duty in Germany and a tour of duty in Vietnam. He returned to the United States and was assigned to Fort Dix, New Jersey and served as a Drill Sergeant. After 22 years of honorable service to his country, retired from active duty in 1973. Not one to rest on his laurels of service to

others, he sought a way to provide service to young people in the local community.

Joe focused his energy on trouble youth and took a position at New Jersey Children's Home in Mt. Holly. His military background served him well as he worked to instill self-respect, discipline, a sense of pride and self-worth in his students. His 30 years of faithful and devoted service earned him recognition and a building "The Tamayo Cottage", was named in his honor. Retiring from the Children's Home in 2013. Joe refused to slow down. Joe was a member of several veteran service organizations including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Purple Heart Association, American Legion, North Jersey (Triple Nickle, 555), Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Fort Dix Retire Council and the 24th Infantry Regimental Combat Team Association (Buffalo Soldiers). Family meant the world to him and he was the rock of the family. He had three daughter's Jo-Ellen (Jo-Jo), Debra and Jeanetta (Bunnie). Jo-Ellen and Jeanetta proceeded him in death. He has two grandchildren Shaun Jamar and Minnie Mylina and four great grandchildren. He is preceded by his sister Daisy M. Robertson in Chicago, Illinois, and Albert Lee Tamayo, Meridian, MS and many family members.

Major Awards and Decorations

Bronze Star with "V" For Valor

Purple Heart

United Nations Service Medal

Korean Service Medal

Vietnam Service Medal

Combat Infantry Badge (2nd award)

Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Medal

National Defense Service Medal



Ft Dix– McGuireAFB-Lakehurst Access & Conditions

In an effort to minimize health risks associated with COVID-19, the Joint Base Installation Commander has directed the following actions, in line with the NJ Stay-At-Home Order and the JB MDL Public Health Emergency Declaration:

Access to the installation will be suspended effective March 23, 2020 at 1200, for the following groups:

- Retirees who don't live or work on the installation (access allowed on Saturdays only)
- Gold Star families (access allowed on Saturdays only)
- Disabled veterans (access allowed on Saturdays only)
- Off-Base fresh food deliveries, I.E. Grub Hub, Pizza, etc (vendor can be met at the welcome center parking lot outside the McGuire or Lakehurst gates)
- Honorary commanders

HEALTH PROTECTION MEASURES

Situation	HPCON	Example Health Protection Measures
Normal Baseline	0	Routine: Standard precautions such as routine hand washing, cough on sleeve, diet, exercise, vaccinations, education, stockpiling, planning, routine health alerts, etc.
Report of unusual health risk or disease	A	Limited: Health Alert, communicate risk and symptoms, review plans, verify preparation: training, stocks, posture, prepare to diagnose, isolate, and report new cases
Outbreak or heightened exposure risk	B	Moderate: Strict hygiene (no handshaking, wipe common use items); if exposed, self-isolate (wear mask or remain home); avoid contaminated water/food or risk area; vector control
High morbidity epidemic or contamination	C	Substantial: Social distance (limit: meetings, socials, TDYs); shelter in-place indoors; or, if directed, don respirators; mass distribution of medical countermeasures, if applicable
High mortality epidemic or containment	D	Severe: Restrict movement (quarantine), mass evacuation, mass decontamination, subsist on secure food/water sources

Joint Base MDL

[https://
www.jbmdl.jb.mil/
Coronavirus/
www.cdc.gov/
coronavirus/2019-nCoV/](https://www.jbmdl.jb.mil/Coronavirus/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/)

As of 3/24/20

Level C





I had picked this up over a month ago, was going to dig deeper into it, they felt there was some long lasting effects.

Now the Chloroquine that we took daily in RVN has the potential to become a major treatment in the recovery from COVID 19.

The next question, will it help us, as we lived with this in our system for a year.

Also, what's the effect on Veterans, from different conflicts?

MATTER

Scientists Identify 69 Drugs to Test Against the Coronavirus *Scientists Identify 69 Drugs to Test*

Two dozen of the medicines are already under investigation. Also on the list: chloroquine, a drug used to treat malaria.

(copied from the New York Times)

Copy and paste this for COVID 19 information This is directly to the **House Committee on Veterans Affairs**

<https://veterans.house.gov/covid-19>

This can help answer a lot of questions, and keep you updated on what's current.

VA Coronavirus Message

Call your [VA medical center](#) before going to a clinic, urgent care, or emergency room, especially if you have symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. Calling first helps us protect you, medical staff, and other patients. Ask your VA health care team about the option of care by phone or video instead of an in-person visit. We also ask that visitors who feel unwell postpone their visits to VA facilities.

Visit the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) for the latest coronavirus information. You can also read about VA's [public health response](#).



Sunday, March 29th is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, public events at The Wall in Washington, D.C. and in many communities around the country cannot take place as planned. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is moving this year's commemoration online with a live webcast and messages of thanks. We need your video or written message to make National Vietnam War Veterans Day an online event! We're asking you to record a very short video and upload it by Friday, March 27th, and then watch the event online on March 29th at 1:00 pm EST. You can also leave a written message.

Go to: <https://www.vvmf.org/WelcomeHome>



Note from the Editor

Short issue this Month, we've lost the months of March and April!

Tough time to be learning what to put into the Newsletter, there is so much information floating around. The VA has been very strong in putting info out.

Be sure to check out the Website, the Scholarship Committee has the issue of a time line, for submittal of Essay's. If anyone should question you, please refer them to a committee member, Van is Chairman.

I am also adding a page, Announcements, to the website, for meeting changes, etc.

My Healthy Vet, EBenefits, and VA.gov links are on the Website. If you need help, let me know, alan@vva899.org 609 410-1428

thanks,

Alan

ANY MEMBER WHO WOULD LIKE TO PLACE AN ARTICLE IN THE NEWSLETTER CAN DO SO BY SUBMITTING TO *Alan Kirchoff at Alan @VVA899.org* IN WORD FORMAT. ALL ARTICLES MUST BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD PRIOR TO INSERTION IN THE NEWSLETTER.



The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

