



Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial Society

4715 - 25 Mercer Street
Philadelphia, PA 19137
215-535-0643

“IT’S OUR DUTY TO REMEMBER”

SEPTEMBER | 2015

In this issue

[President's Report](#)

[Vice President's Report](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Summer Photo Album](#)

[Thank You Letter](#)

[The First Search for MIA's](#)

[Last But Not Least](#)



President's Report

PVVMS Updates from Len Law

- August 2nd was our Tuition Aid Ceremony, there were 21 recipients this year. Special guest speaker was Shauna Gallagher Thomas who gave an inspiring speech! Refreshments were available after the ceremony. Thanks to all our members who work hard during the year to make the ceremony a success!
- August 8th was packing for the Troops. 81 boxes were packed and shipped. Thanks to all who came out to help! Included in this newsletter is a thank you letter we received.
- The annual Stand Down this year is being held the weekend after Labor Day September 12 & 13.
- Irish weekend in Wildwood is September 25, 26, and 27. The shirts are in and Jack will have them available at the next meeting for \$15.00. They will be \$20.00 down the shore.
- Walk for the Wounded in Ocean City is Saturday September 26. The walk starts at the Music Pier around 11 AM. I'm not sure of the start time, but if you are interested call Bill Crean.



SEE MORE DETAILS BELOW IN THE CALENDAR

Vice President's Report

A letter from Dan Hazley

I hope everyone had a great summer! I know I sure did with our inaugural season down Driftwood Campground with my lovely better half.

Two months back a debate erupted regarding the legacy of our organization, an organization that I sincerely refer to as "The Best Damn Veteran Group in the Area". During our July meeting one of our valued longtime members inquired about the possibility of a name change. His reasoning being our longtime name sends the message that we are "exclusive" to other potential veteran candidates. Personally, I speak with complete 'matter of fact', this group is extremely welcoming to ALL Veterans. I have personally experienced this genuine kindness not so long ago. This kindness, along with all your community support, made my decision to be more involved a very easy one.

While this topic was again brought up during our August meeting, the very vocal dissent was more than telling of a very sensitive subject. During our July meeting I voiced my personal experience of trying to get some of my fellow Iraq & Afghan Vets to join PVVMS, with the common response from them: "I'm not a Vietnam Vet".

While I am, not only your Vice President, I am your first VP from another conflict, but first and foremost, I am an Iraq Campaign Veteran. The past two meetings I heard some pretty vocal opposition to any remote consideration of any form of name change. Before our August meeting I would've endorsed a minor name change; however, AFTER the August meeting I realized I wanted nothing to do with any type of name change. The overwhelming majority of our members are Vietnam Veterans, you are also very good friends. I see a camaraderie amongst you guys like no other group, including my own. It was very easy for me to conclude: you guys started this, grew it, and run it...and you should continue; this is "your" club.

Very Respectfully,

Dan Hazley, OIF Vet

Calendar Updates!

Dates to remember

NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 9 – 8:00 PM

- **September 11-13** – Delaware Valley Stand Down – Volunteers needed to help homeless vets. For complete information go to the website at: <http://www.philastanddown.org/>, or call 267-560-5011. Also, see attached flyer.
- **September 14** – Veteran's Multi-Service Center (VMC) Annual Golf Outing at Indian Valley Country Club in support of our local veterans! ALL proceeds from the event will benefit the VMC.
Link: <http://vmcenter.org/index.php/event-calendar/event/81-veterans-golf-outing>.
- **September 21** – "Doc" Andrew Jensen 1st Annual Memorial Golf Tournament - \$125 per golfer – includes: green fees, cart, and buffet dinner. Email: vva_chapter.1068@yahoo.com or call: 856-577-1703.
- **September 25-26** – Irish Weekend in Wildwood, NJ (Sept. 24-27) - Our site is # 74 which is not far from Flip Flops Bar. Friday, Sept. 25 – 8:00 AM set up. End time - early Saturday afternoon. You can buy shirts at the Hooch for \$15.00. Shirts on site in Wildwood will be \$20.00. Contact Jack Crussard if you can help out and let him know when you are available: 215.333.5972 – jcrussard@yahoo.com. Link: http://www.wildwoodsnj.com/calendar.cfm?mode=results&coe_id=1090.
- **September 26** – Walk for the Wounded in Ocean City, NJ - <http://www.walkforthewounded.org/>.
- **October 1** – deadline to submit entry into the First Annual Veteran's Parade –
Link: <http://www.phillyveteransparade.org> or call Terry Williamson at 610.637.0980
- **November 8** – First Annual Veteran's Parade – 12:00 PM -- <http://www.phillyveteransparade.org/Home/>. If you want to enter the parade, go to the website and fill out the form by OCTOBER 1.

Summer Photo Album

Cool off with some HOT PHOTOS!

Tuition Aid



Packing for the Troops



Phillies
Game



Thank You!

A letter from a very grateful Marine!

Your care package was not only welcome, but opportune - as you may/may not know 07AUG was a bloody day here in Kabul and Camp Integrity was hit by a VBIED... Morale and home "goodies" are always a welcome sight and emphasizes the "we are not alone and not forgotten"...

I replaced LTC Reynolds but will ensure that he knows that this came - please share with your group that we have opened the box and shared it with the entire camp, after of course confirming the authenticity of the chocolate - medically speaking...

As you mentioned in your letter about heroes - those that continue to support the warriors, both forward and at home, are the heroes in my mind!

God Bless all of you - if you (or any of you) ever need medical advice - please reach out and I will always try to help...

r/ john

John J Osborn MD, MSHS
LTC(P), MC, FS
Command Surgeon
NSOCC-A/SOJTF-A
Kabul, Afghanistan



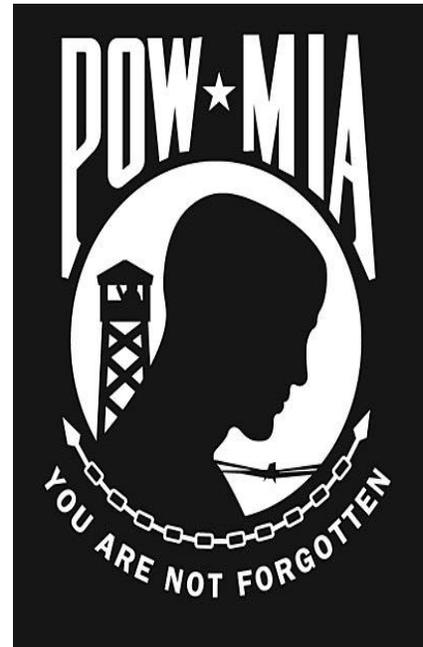
**Please note: photo of items is not representative of items sent from PVVMS*

The First Efforts to Find MIA's

Setting the standard to find the missing

~From *AAA World*, September/October 2015

Most people know Clara Barton as a pioneer of the nursing profession and founder of the **American Red Cross**. But in 1865 Barton hired a staff and opened the "**Office of Correspondence with the Friends of the Missing Men of the United States Army**". Very few know that she was the first person in U.S. history to formally search for members of the armed services who were missing in action. After the Civil War, the by-then renowned, Barton received some 63,000 letters from people searching for loved ones who never returned from battle. Working out of the Washington, D.C. boarding house where she lived (now the Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office Museum, and with a small cadre of workers, she managed to locate or discover the fate of nearly 22,000 of these men.



Last But Not Least...

The ho-ho-holiday season and PVMMS!

Even though it seems like months away, the holiday season is just around the corner. We'd like to ask that you start planning now to support our 3rd Annual **PVMMS Toy Drive** by bringing "new unwrapped Christmas toys" to the next few meetings beginning in September and ending in December.

The destination of these much needed toys will be joint Base McGuire /Ft Dix / Lakehurst.



Have a suggestion or an idea for future content? We'd love to hear from you! Email: dmcoulter1968@yahoo.com. To no longer receive this newsletter, please send an email to dmcoulter1968@yahoo.com, or call 215-446-3441.

Copyright © 2015 PVMMS. All rights reserved.