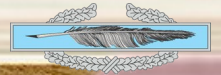


Grievances



**AN E-MAIL SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) OF THE
PUTNAM COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY**

A Tale of Two Grievances

As a way to deal with certain situations some of my friends and I ask each other at times if they want to fill out a "Hurt Feelings Report". While that is a bit tongue and cheek about a real or imagined grievance what I am about to tell you are two real grievances and should be taken seriously.

In recent weeks three police departments in Putnam County, the Putnam County Department of Social Services and Mental Health, Putnam County Veterans Service Agency and Guardian Revival/ Dwyer Vet2Vet worked feverishly to get a suicidal Veteran admitted to the VA. The Veteran was bounced around two hospitals prior to getting admitted to the VA and finally in the 5th week the Veteran was transferred to a second VA facility that has the capacity to deal with his mental health issues. Five Weeks. Let me repeat that five weeks before he was able to get the proper help.

Countless phone calls and e-mails were generated. Guardian Revival was able too at the end of week three organize a Zoom call with the VA medical leadership and representatives of all the aforementioned services. Remember three

weeks and four weeks. We were assured that we would be given a point of contact phone list to prevent this from happening again. As we enter the sixth week we have not received the POC list.

I hope all of you are outraged about this. We are not asking the VA to lance a boil we are asking them to take responsibility to assist a suicidal Veteran.

While the VA is spending countless hours and dollars to apologize for its motto that "To care for him who shall have borne the battle" because it is not gender inclusive a Veteran who is our neighbor is ignored. When in a e-mail it was pointed out to the VA that another often used motto from them is "Choose VA". Well we were choosing VA to no avail. One of the Doctor's responded that it was complicated. No doc it was not complicated. We have Veteran who is hurting you have to help that Veteran in a real an meaningful way. It is not complicated.

This is a call to action contact our congressman and air this grievance. Contact the VA and air this grievance.

Grievance number two has been on TV and in our local newspapers thanks to our new Assemblyman Matt Slater.

First a bit of context each year for the past several years when then Governor Cuomo gave his budget address he praised Dwyer Vet2Vet for the wonderful peer support the program provided in several counties throughout the state. Then when his actual budget came out Dwyer Ve2Vet was cut out of the budget. Veterans and Veteran advocates


had to go to their State elected officials and beg for the money. Beg for money to assist Veterans. It was restored but not without a great deal of work and energy that could have been better spent assisting Veterans.

With the departure of Mr. Cuomo we received some good news frm the new governor. Not only would Dwyer be funded but it would b expanded to every county in the state. Halleluiah!!!

Governor Hochul kept her word Dwyer is in the new budget. However there is a big however over \$7 Million dollars of other funding for Veterans has been removed from the state budget she proposed this year. Yes the Governor gives and she takes away. Leaving Veterans once more to beg for funding. There are 14 programs that the Governor is cutting from the budget at about \$2.6 Million. There is also another \$5 Million she is proposing to cut that would go to Veterans Service Organization for their buildings.

As Assemblyman Slater stated at his press conference regarding this issue: "A 227 billion budget containing billions of dollars in new funding while our governor has proposed cutting millions of dollars that support our brave Veterans and service members is egregious". Our own County Executive Kevin Byrne pointed out at the press conference how these cuts directly impact Putnam County in that several of the post buildings are in need of repair and items like a generator. The County Executive noted that these Veterans service organizations continue to give back to the community and that the state should recognize that.

So yes grievances-not hurt feelings. Please contact your state and federal elected officials and tell them you want to air a grievance on behalf of our Veterans!



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110 OLD ROUTE 6, BLDG. #3
CARMEL NY 10512
MONDAY—FRIDAY 9-5
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
845-808-1620
TUESDAY EVENINGS 5-8PM

KARL ROHDE, DIRECTOR
ART HANLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

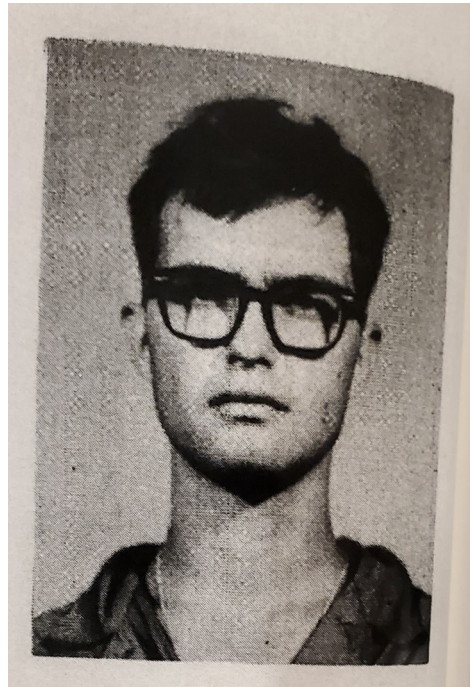


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ALMOST
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**BUT WITH
THE
MIND
OF AN
ALMOST
41 YEAR
OLD
ARMY
VETERAN**

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WHICH IS ANOTHER FEW YEARS REMOVED FROM THE ACTUAL EVENT
THIS DATE MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF WHEN THE LAST AMERICAN TROOPS LEFT VIETNAM
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GUARDIAN REVIVAL



GUARDIAN CONNECT

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Guardian Connect (G-Connect) provides experiences, resources, and peer support – by guardians, for guardians.

It costs nothing to join & participate, and we would love to have you as part of the Guardian Revival family.

SIGN UP NOW



GUARDIAN REVIVAL

Guardian Revival is a New York State 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization chartered to revive and preserve the mental health and wellbeing of veterans and first responders - our guardians - at no cost to them.

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845-669-8235 x101



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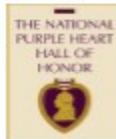
AMERICA'S MILITARY WOMEN & THE PURPLE HEART



**Saturday, March 25th, 2023
11:00 a.m.**

Women have supported America's military from the Revolution to today. Although today women are present in all areas of our armed forces, it was not always so. The program will discuss those changes and how those changing roles have increasingly put them in harm's way, thus making them eligible for the Purple Heart. The program will feature a range of recipients highlighting their presence in conflicts from World War I to Afghanistan and the circumstances that resulted in their becoming Purple Heart recipients.

Admission is Free, and as seating is limited, reservations are strongly suggested. To make a reservation or for more information about the event, please call 845-561-1765.



**National Purple Heart
Hall of Honor
374 Temple Hill Road
New Windsor NY 12553**



The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is a New York State Parks Site under the jurisdiction of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

The Bulletin Board

