

THE CENTURION

DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
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James L. Thompson, Chairman
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Volume 11, Number 2

Apr-Jun 2004

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

My Fellow Veterans, The Commission met with the Governor on April 6th regarding the proposed State Veterans Home in Delaware. As you know, the Governor is in favor of the home but wants to fund it over a two-year cycle. The DCVA objects to the two years and feels that all monies should be obligated now while the State has a surplus. It is our opinion that either the federal or state economy could drop enough next year, which could preclude us from receiving all the funds, which could cancel the home or postpone construction for another number of years. Because of differences in information received by her departments and the Commission regarding funding by the federal government, she agreed to have a group of her staff and Commission members make a joint call to the Federal VA to determine the correct information to assist her in finalizing her decision. The Commission met in a joint session with the Veterans Affairs Committees of both the Senate and the House of the Delaware Legislature on April 7th. We presented our opinions on the desire of veterans in the State to get all funds now rather than wait more years. The Secretary of Administrative Services was present and presented a timeline to show that the obligation of all funds in this year or in two years would not affect the final completion date of the construction project. Representative Richard Cathcart, who has been involved in construction projects for many years, fully disagreed with the timeline as presented and stated that the architectural and engineering date and the construction completion date, was too long for any normal building process. The Joint Veterans Affairs Committee, under Chairman Bunting, made a non-binding vote to support providing the full \$8.8 million this year and would recommend to their respective groups that both the House and Senate vote in favor of obligating all monies now. Representative Terry Spence, Speaker of the House, led the House to a 38 – 0 vote on April 8th to obligate all state monies this year. Now it's the Senate's turn!

Sincerely,
Jim Thompson, Chairman

THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER

*“Americans are endowed with certain inalienable rights,
but if we don't stick up for them somebody will come along and un-endow them.”*

NEWARK ARMED FORCES PARADE

Delaware's largest military and veteran's parade will be held on Sunday, May 16, 2004. From the small display in 1935 to the larger participation 69 years later, the purpose remains the same, to honor and remember those who have served and continue to serve our country. We begin traditionally at 1:00 PM, with a stirring military service on the University of Delaware Green in front of Memorial Hall. The service will be followed by a parade of military, veterans, and civic groups down Main Street. This year the parade will honor the U.S. Coast Guard and the dedication of the WWII Memorial. The City of Newark and the Memorial Day Committee are pleased to extend an invitation to the citizens of Delaware to attend the state memorial ceremonies and parade honoring those who have given so much to their country and to us as individuals. In order to maintain this state-wide memorial, tax deductible contributions would be greatly appreciated and should be forwarded to: Newark Memorial Day Committee, P O Box 390, Newark, DE 19715.

RECOGNIZING THE WWII VETERAN

The Newark Memorial Day committee would like to recognize the WWII Veterans by having one member of each branch of service ride in the parade. If you are a WWII Veteran from the Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy, Women's Air Corp, Women's Army Corp, WAVES, etc. and would like to represent your branch of service by riding in the parade on Sunday, May 16, 2004, please call Linda Burns at 302—366-7110 ex 142

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

The Military Officers Association of America and the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs will host Memorial Day Services, Sunday, May 30, 2004. The first service will be at the Memorial

Bridge Plaza, Delaware Memorial Bridge, New Castle, Delaware, beginning at 10:30 AM. Following the services at the Memorial Bridge Plaza, there will be a service held at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, Delaware, at 2:00 PM. For further information, please call (800) 344-9900 (in state only) or (302) 739-2792.

NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DEDICATION

The public interest in attending the dedication ceremony has been extraordinary. With 3 ½ million living WWII veterans, we knew the demand would exceed our capacity to accommodate all who want to attend the ceremony. Our first priority has always been the members of the generation who served on the battlefield and the home front. To this end, we are pleased that overall, 60 percent of the 117,000 ticketed seats available will go to members of the WWII generation. Our seating sections span the Mall and include the MCI Center, and members of the WWII generation have been given the majority of the seats in each section. Individuals who requested tickets should have received notification indicating how many tickets have been reserved for them. Constituents with questions regarding their ticket orders should be directed to our ticket hot line at 1-800-297-1421. For those who will be in Washington over Memorial Day Weekend without tickets for the dedication, we are establishing a non-ticketed viewing area on the Mall that should accommodate about 10,000 individuals in seats and another 30,000 standing room attendees. This area will be between 10th and 14th Streets, adjacent to the Smithsonian's WWII Reunion described below. We encourage you to alert your members to ways the American people can experience this historic event from just about anywhere in the country. Here are the highlights:

Local Events of Celebration

Veteran Service Organizations across the country are organizing events to honor the WWII generation

that will include viewing a specially-produced live satellite feed of the ceremony. In some cases the communities are planning large-scale events to honor local heroes.

Live Televised Coverage

The History Channel and C-SPAN have both agreed to carry the dedication ceremony live from start to finish beginning at 2:00 pm EST on Saturday, May 29, 2004. We also expect extensive news coverage of the events and special Memorial Day weekend coverage focusing on the National World War II Memorial.

Other options for those without Tickets.

The memorial should open to the public in mid-April 2004 and remain open through Friday, May 28th, so visitors may enjoy an early visit to the new memorial prior to the dedication weekend events. The memorial will be closed on Saturday, May 29th until at least one hour after the conclusion of the Dedication Ceremony, then reopens and remains open throughout the summer. Smithsonian WWII Reunion, May 27-30, 2004 Coinciding with the dedication ceremony will be the "Tribute to a Generation: National World War II Reunion," a major four-day event produced by the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folk life and Cultural Heritage. Admission is free and tickets are not required. The Reunion will take place on the National Mall between 3rd and 7th Streets. Highlights include:

Reunion Hall: A Central Gathering Place for all Veterans and their families are encouraged to socialize, relax and get acquainted with others and reconnect with their service colleagues.

Wartime Stories: Voices of a Generation. Come in for a chat with prominent World War II veterans and war workers. Narrative sessions, and interviews on a variety of topics will be featured in this pavilion.

Veterans History Project Pavilion. The Library of Congress Veterans History Project will present interviews, speakers, and the exhibits that showcase first-hand accounts collected from men and women, civilian and military, who served during the war. Information and workshops and how to write, record, and preserve personal histories will be provided.

Preserving Memories. Experts from museums and archives will advise veterans and their families on how to preserve documents and material culture of WWII, such as letters, scrapbooks, diaries, maps, photographs, memorabilia, medals, uniforms, etc. Weapons will not be permitted.

Building the WWII Memorial. Members of the architectural, engineering, landscape and construction teams will discuss their roles in creating the WWII Memorial. This pavilion will also feature an exhibition by the City Museum of Washington on the planning and building of the memorial.

Veterans Services. Representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs, federal agencies and other veteran service organizations will assist veterans and their families. Information on veteran's resources and benefits will be available.

Family Activities: Passing It On. Families of all ages are invited to move from station to station, engaging in hands-on activities relating to the World War II period.

Homecoming Stage & Capitol Canteen Stage. Share the sights and sounds of dance and music from the World War II era (big band, swing, Boogie-woogie, military music, and more) in these two performance pavilions.

Military Equipment Display. Throughout the Reunion site will be displays of military artifacts and equipment relating to World War II. For more information on the National WWII Reunion please visit: <http://www.folklife.si.edu/CFCH/wwiioverview.htm> (*World War II Memorial Information Update, American Battle Monuments Commission, March 11, 2004*)

AMERICA CELEBRATES THE GREATEST GENERATION

100-Day Summer Tribute. Your members also can make plans to visit Washington, D.C. and the memorial throughout the summer to take part in a citywide, summer-long celebration called "America Celebrates the Greatest Generation." The celebration will kick-off Memorial Day weekend and continue through Labor Day weekend. More than 80 WWII-themed exhibitions, performances,

and walking tours, as well as hotel packages, are planned throughout the region- unprecedented 100-day collaboration among the region's cultural, historic and hospitality venues. Scheduled events include:

*The Associated Press' Images of World War II at Union Station

*Corcoran Gallery's America's Four Freedoms on loan from The Norman Rockwell Museum

*Spies Among Us at the International Spy Museum

*Images of Memory: WWII Combat Art at the Marine Corps Museum & Historical Center for more information on "America Celebrates the Greatest Generation" events produced by the American Experience Foundation in partnership with the Washington, DC Convention & Tourism Corporation and Cultural Tourism DC, please visit:

www.americasgreatestgeneration.com. We also would like to remind you that individuals wishing to honor members of the WWII generation can do so by enrolling them in the WWII Registry at www.wwiimemorial.com. (*World War II Memorial Information Update, American Battle Monuments Commission, March 11, 2004*)

SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS

On December 16, 2003, President Bush signed Public Law 108-183, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003. Section 308 of this law permits contracting officers to restrict competition to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans (SDVOSB) and authorizes sole source awards to SDVOSBs under certain circumstances. We are issuing this PIB in anticipation of a change to the FAR, since the law is already in effect, so that contracting officers may immediately use this authority. Specifically, the law allows for the following:

*Contracting officers may restrict (set-aside) competitions to SDVOSBs, subject to the following conditions:

°The contracting officer has a reasonable expectation that not less than two SDVOSBs will submit offers; and,

°The award can be made at a fair market price.

*Contracting officers may award sole source contracts to any SDVOSB, subject to the following conditions:

°The contracting officer does not have a reasonable expectation that two or more SDVOSBs will submit offers:

°The anticipated contract award amount, including options, will not exceed \$5 million (for contracts assigned a North American Industrial Classification Code for manufacturing) or \$3 million (for other contracts); and

°The award can be made at a fair and reasonable price.

These authorities do not override existing acquisition law or regulation pertaining to the requirement to purchase products from Federal Prison Industries, and products and services from the Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled. In performing market research to locate SDVOSB sources, the contracting officer may use the VetBiz Vendor Information Pages, located on the Internet at <http://www.vetbiz.gov/>. Companies that are registered as SDVOSBs in this database have stipulated that the firm is at least 51 percent owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, as defined in the FAR, and that the business is currently small by Federal size standards. In addition, contracting officers may use other sources, such as the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) located at <http://www.ccr.gov/>, to locate potential sources. Set-asides for SDVOSBs and proposed sole source awards to SDVOSBs are not exempt from the requirements of FAR 5.201 regarding synopsis in FedBizOpps if they meet the requirements of 5.101 and not of the exemptions in FAR 5.202 apply. Any protests regarding the small business or socioeconomic status of an offer shall be handled in accordance with FAR 19.302. Contracting officers may use the following language in any solicitation that is set-aside for SDVOSBs: Notice of Set-Aside for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Concerns. (a) Offers are solicited only from service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns. Offers received from concerns that are not service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns shall not be considered.

(b) Definition. “Service-disabled veteran-owned small business concern”, as used in this provision –

(1) Means a small business concern –

(i) Not less than 51 percent of which is owned by one or more service-disabled veterans or, in the case of any publicly owned business, not less than 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more service-disabled veterans; and

(ii) The management and daily business operations of which are controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans or, in the case of a veteran with permanent and severe disability, the spouse or permanent caregiver of such veteran.

(2) “Service-disabled veteran” means a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(2), with a disability that is service-connected, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(16).

Until such time as the Federal Procurement Data System – Next Generation (FPDS-NG) is modified to include a reporting field for an acquisition that is set-aside for award to a SDVOSB, contracting officers shall report the acquisition to FPDS-NG as being from a SDVOSB. Requirements and Responsibilities. Contracting officers are encouraged to use the above authority to increase acquisitions made from SDVOSBs. We do not anticipate a DOSAR revision, as this change will be incorporated into the FAR. Questions may be addressed to Gladys Gines, A/OPE/PD, telephone 703-516-1691, fax 703-875-6155, or an e-mail.

NEW TAX LAW AIDS MILITARY PERSONNEL

When the President signed Public Law 108-121, the *Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003*, members of the military gained some new deductions and income exclusions, such as capital gains tax adjustment, military death-benefit payments, certain home sales, and expansion of the definition of a combat zone. When filing amended claims, the IRS is asking taxpayers to put the words “Military Family Tax Relief Act” in red at the top of such (amended) returns to speed processing. Specifically, for example, the new law doubled the benefit paid to survivors of deceased Armed Forces members to \$12,000, made the entire amount tax-free, and made the changes effective for deaths occurring after

September 10, 2001. Previously, only \$3,000 was tax-free. Recipients, who already paid tax on benefits received for deaths after the effective date, may file an amended return on Form 1040X, reducing their adjusted gross income by the \$3,000 they had reported as taxable. Taxpayers may exclude gain on a home sale, provided they have owned and used the home as a principal residence for two of the five years before the sale. A reduced maximum exclusion may apply to those who satisfy part of the two-year rule. Military personnel often retain ownership of a home while away on duty, but eventually sell it without returning to live in it, perhaps failing the use test completely, IRS officials informed us. A taxpayer on qualified official extended duty in the U.S. Armed Services or the Foreign Service may suspend, for up to 10 years of such duty time, the running of the 5-year ownership-and-use period before the sale of a residence. This applies when the duty station is at least 50 miles from the residence, or while the person is residing under orders in government housing more than 90 days or for an indefinite period. This election, which is an option for the taxpayer, applies to only one property at a time, retroactive for homes sales after May 6, 1997. Although taxpayers normally have only three years to file an amended return, qualifying taxpayers who sold a residence before 2001, have until November 10, 2004, to amend their returns for this purpose. (*VFW Volume XXXXII, February 27, 2004*)

DOD ANNOUNCES KOREAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

The Defense Department announced the creation of the Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM). The KDSM is a service medal to give special recognition for the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the U.S. armed forces who have served or are serving in the Republic of Korea. Public Law 107-314 legislated the creation of a new medal to recognize military service in the Republic of Korea and the surrounding waters. Members of the armed forces authorized the KDSM must have served in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea. The area of eligibility encompassed all land

area of the Republic of Korea, and the contiguous water out to 12 nautical miles, and all air spaces above the land and water areas. The KDSM period of eligibility is July 28, 1954, to a future date to be determined by the secretary of defense. Servicemembers must have been assigned, attached, or mobilized to units operating in the area of eligibility and have been physically deployed in the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days or meet one of the following criteria:

Be engaged in actual combat during an armed engagement, regardless of the time in the area of eligibility.

Is wounded or injured in the line of duty and requires medical evacuation from the area of eligibility.

While participating as a regularly assigned air crewmember flying sorties into, out of, within, or over the area of eligibility in support of military operations. Each day that one or more sorties are flown in accordance with these criteria shall count as one day toward the 30 or 60-day requirement.

Personnel who served in operations and exercises conducted in the area of eligibility are considered eligible for the award as long as the basic time criteria is met. Due to the extensive time period for KDSM eligibility, the nonconsecutive service period for eligibility remains cumulative throughout the entire period. The KDSM may be awarded posthumously, and only one award of the KDSM is authorized for any individual. Each military department will prescribe appropriate regulations for administrative processing, awarding and wearing of the KDSM and ribbon for their servicemembers, to include application procedures for veterans, retirees, and next-of-kin. More than 40,000 members of the U.S. armed forces have served in the Republic of Korea or the waters adjacent thereto each year since the signing of the cease-fire agreement in July 1953, which established the Demilitarized Zone. For more than 50 years, U.S. Armed Forces' efforts to deter and defend the Korean Peninsula have helped maintain democracy and preserve the indomitable spirit of freedom. *(DOD News Release, February 10, 2004)*

DIC WIDOW ENTITLEMENT CHANGE

A recently passed law could provide additional income for thousands of unknowing surviving spouses of military retirees and other veterans. Public Law 108-183, the Veterans Benefit Act of 2003 signed into law by President Bush on December 16, allows survivors of members who died of service-connected causes to retain Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) if they remarry after attaining age 57. Previously, surviving spouses lost this entitlement if they remarried at any age and the only provision to regain the benefit was if the latter marriage ended in death or divorce. Under the new law those who have already remarried (and were age 57 or older when they did so) have until 16 December 2004 to apply for reinstatement of their DIC benefits. The current entitlement is \$967 a month. The application form VA form 21-686c can be downloaded at

<http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/21-686c.pdf>.

Readers who know of individuals who may be eligible should inform them of this new law since notification letters will not be sent. Those eligible should apply as soon as possible as there was no mention in the bill that payments are retroactive. *(Air Force Retiree News, January 21, 2004)*

DEATH NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR RETIREES

Upon the death of a uniformed service retiree, the next of kin should call the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Cleveland Center. DFAS will close the retiree's pay account and send a survivor benefits package. Typically, forms will be included that instruct the next of kin on how to recoup the retiree's unpaid pay and how to initiate SBP payments if applicable. You must fill these out promptly and return them with a certified copy of the death certificate. Survivors should report retiree deaths to the DFAS Cleveland Center's casualty office at 1-800-269-5170. Faxes can be sent to the office at 1-800-469-6559.

Provide the following data in your notification:

· Retiree's full name.

- Retiree's Social Security Number.
- Retiree's date of death.
- Beneficiary name and relationship to deceased.
- Retiree's current address.

Additional actions to take:

- Notify Social Security Administration and apply for \$255 death benefit.
- Return and cancel any pension payments received after the date of death. However, Do not return any retired payments that have been directly deposited to a bank account; DFAS will automatically reclaim the money that needs to be returned when you notify DFAS of the retiree's death.
- Obtain a list of benefits applicable to the retiree's beneficiaries that they are entitled to.
- Notify the local Country Veteran's Service Office or Veterans Administration Regional Office and request their assistance for obtaining burial benefits.
- Apply for a new ID card for the spouse.
- Do not use any retirement, VA or Social Security payments issued after the date of death. A beneficiary can be required to pay any money back that was used after the date of death.

DOD RETIREE EMPLOYMENT

The Defense Department has announced implementation of a new policy which will allow defense managers to hire civil service retirees needed in critical positions without offsetting their retirement pay, which was required under previous law. A similar provision was previously implemented for military retirees. Until enactment of this stand-alone provision, authorized by the fiscal year 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, DoD civil service retirees had their pay reduced by the amount of their pension. This benefit applies only to those hired on or after November 24, 2003. The policy has a number of restrictions and requirements.

- A retiree can only be hired into hard-to-fill positions where the retiree has unique or specialized skills or qualifications.
- A retiree cannot be reemployed in his or her previous job position unless someone above the hiring official approves it and certifies the critical conditions.

- A retiree may be hired for up to one year as a mentor to less experienced employees or to provide continuity during critical organizational transitions.
- Before any retiree can be hired, the position must be offered to qualified defense workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.
- For executive level positions, only the secretaries of the military departments or heads of defense agencies and field activities may appoint annuitants to such positions. (*DoD News Release, March 22, 2004*)

SPACE "A" DEPENDENT TRAVEL UPDATE

The Air Mobility Command's Air Transportation Division Announced that the one-year test to expand space-available travel privileges to family members of active-duty and retired personnel traveling within the Continental United States has been extended until further notice. The extension will allow the test to continue while the Office of the Secretary of Defense completes its evaluation of the results. Under the "Space-A" test phase, the family members of active-duty and retired military people are able to travel "Space-A" aboard military flights when accompanied by their sponsors. The test does not apply to Guard and Reserve members who are retired but not yet eligible for retired pay and benefits. The one-year test initially scheduled to end April 1, 2004 was proposed as a way to improve quality-of-life privileges for military service people and their families. Prior to the test, regulations prohibited family members from flying space available within the CONUS. Additional Space-A travel and signup information is available through the Headquarters AMC Passenger Policy Branch Web site at <http://public.amc.af.mil/SPACEA/spacea.htm>. A list of passenger terminals and phone numbers can be found there. (*Military.com msg, March 23, 2004*)

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME (DST)

For most of the United States and its territories, DST goes into effect annually at 2 A.M. on the first Sunday in April and remains until the last Sunday in October. In exchange for this inconvenience we get

an additional hour of daylight in the evening during the periods where DST is observed. Although Federal Law enacted DST, it allows exemption for states/territories that do not want to change. For example, Arizona, Hawaii, the Eastern Time Zone of Indiana, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Marianas do not change their clocks. Benjamin Franklin conceived DST while he was an American delegate in Paris in 1784. However, around 1907, William Willett, a London builder, became the first serious advocate of saving daylight. In 1916 and during WWI, Europe realized a need to conserve energy and various plans of "daylight savings" were enacted. In 1918, the United States came to the same realization and enacted a law to both preserve daylight and provide standard time for the nation. It was an unpopular law, and in 1919 was repealed over President Wilson's veto. However, some localities liked the DST concept and continued it. During WWII, the nation, for the years of 1942-1945 went under DST year around, which was called "War Time". In 1966, 1972, 1972-1986, Congress passed various laws concerning the issues of time and daylight savings. (*NAUS Update, April 02, 2004*)

VA LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE ON HEPATITIS C

A new comprehensive Web site on hepatitis C-- www.hepatitis.va.gov – was formally launched February 25, 2004, through a collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the University of California at San Francisco's Center for HIV Information (CHI). "Hepatitis C is another reminder that veterans rely on VA to care for a wide variety of illnesses and battlefield injuries," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "This Web site will help both veterans and medical practitioners to understand this complex, Long-term illness." Hepatitis C is the most common blood borne infection in the United States, affecting 2 percent of the population. VA cares for more hepatitis C patients than any other medical system, with more than 200,000 patients since 1996. The Department has the largest screening, testing and

care program for hepatitis C in the nation. The new hepatitis C Web site has a section for veterans and non-medical employees that include general information and links to other Web sites. It also offers information for health care providers that is searchable by topic and includes best practices, guidelines and slides. "Hepatitis C is an important public health issue for our nation," said Dr. Lawrence Deyton, VA's chief consultant for public health, who over sees VA's hepatitis C programs. "VA is pleased to join with CHI, a world-class medical Web site developer, to provide a user-friendly resource on hepatitis C for providers, patients and public health authorities." CHI, based at the San Francisco VAMC, is directed by Dr. Laurence Peiperl, a medical staff member of both the university and the San Francisco VAMC. Dr. Paul A. Volberding, chief of the medical service at the San Francisco VAMC, chairs the CHI Advisory Board. (*Department of Veterans Affairs, February 23, 2004*)

SAIPAN'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Retired General Paul Tibbets, the man who piloted the *Enola Gay*, will return to the islands which launched his flight on August 6, 1945- a flight that changed the course of history. General Tibbets will be the keynote speaker at the 60th Commemoration of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian, an event to be held on both islands in mid-June 2004. The Mariana Islands, specifically Saipan, Tinian and Guam, were key pieces of real estate for American troops in World War II. The land battle began June 15, 1944, when U.S. Marines and Infantry fought through a hail of bullets to set foot on Saipan. The battle raged for weeks until Saipan was finally declared secure on July 9th, at a cost of more than 3,000 American lives, over 30,000 Japanese, and over 900 of the local population. Once the islands were secured and runways constructed, the Americans could launch B-29 Bomber raids against mainland Japan. At one point, Northfield on Tinian became the busiest airport in the world, with planes taking off every 45 seconds. Yet the Japanese were undeterred and vowed to fight the Americans with every citizen of Japan. The decision to use

America's "secret weapon" was left up to President Harry Truman. If the U.S. could avoid an invasion of the Japanese homeland, it was estimated that 1 million American lives would be spared. So on August 6, 1945, Paul Tibbets and his crew took off from Tinian in the *Enola Gay* bound for Hiroshima. The resulting explosion, coupled with the similar bombing of Nagasaki three days later, convinced the Japanese that continuing the war was futile. They unconditionally surrendered to the Americans on September 2, 1945, thus bringing an end to World War II. The Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of World War II will be held on Saipan and Tinian from June 10th through June 16th, 2004. Many veterans of the campaign, their families and friends, historians and others interested in the War in the Pacific will be returning to honor the men and women of America's "greatest generation". To learn more about the event or to find out how to attend, visit www.worldwarii.info. (Press Release, February 11, 2004)

HOMELAND DEFENSE RADIO WEBSITE

- Serious programming for a serious subject.
- Internet based
- All news - 24/7
- Broadcast news about serious topics. Security. Federal, state, local and DoD homeland security activities underway and planned.
- No politics.

Brought to you by..... Homeland Defense Journal Broadcasting started Monday morning, 15 March 2004 (www.homelanddefenseradio.com).

MEDAL REQUEST VIA INTERNET

Army veterans and their families can have an easier time tracking and receiving medals and decorations thanks to an automated system used by the Clothing and Heraldry Product Support Integration Directorate (PSID). The Web-based system eliminates extensive paperwork, reduces processing time and has capabilities such as allowing each veteran the opportunity to find out the status of his or her request or make address changes online. These types of inquiries that used to be handled

telephonically or by letter can be entered online at <http://veteranmedals.army.mil/>. Award criteria and background for the different service medals can also be found on the Website. Requests for medals and initiated through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis. Eligible veterans or the next-of-kin of a deceased veteran can request medals from NPRC at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>. (Psychological Operations Veterans Association VSO Msg., March 16, 2004)

HELP NEEDED IN NEW CASTLE, KENT AND SUSSEX COUNTIES

Volunteers are needed to drive veterans to the VA Medical Center, Elsmere, DE. The Disabled American Veterans are looking for driver volunteers, Monday thru Thursday 6 AM to 3 PM, schedules are flexible. Individuals will have to fill out an application and take a physical at the VA Medical Center. If interested, please call the DAV Headquarters and leave a message (302-697-9061 for Mark Wischmann or 1-800-461-8262 ext 5414 for Margot Brennan, or 302-629-6879 for Ruth McBride).

ATTENTION ALL VETERANS COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU!

AMVETS (AMERICAN VETERANS)

NATIONAL GUARD, RESERVIST, ACTIVE DUTY, MILITARY RETIREES
ALL WHO HAVE SERVED THIS GREAT COUNTRY

AMVETS National District II Delaware Development Team has been hard at work. Their efforts have begun to pay off and excitement is now driving the team. The Team fanned out across the state in mid January 2004 and the foundation for three (3) new posts was created. As of March 15, 2004 there are AMVETS Chapter applications in process in Dover, Wilmington and Newark. AMVETS presently has one post in Millsboro, DE. For further information about AMVETS, any of

these posts or how to create a post in your hometown contact: delawareamvets@yahoo.com on May 8th, the Team will join other Delaware VSO's at VAMC Wilmington for their annual patient festival. Finally, the Team has accepted an invitation to participate May 15 and 16 at Dover Air Force Base Air Show.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO DELAWARE VETERANS

In January 1946, Walter W. Bacon, then elected Governor, authorized a state award to those who served in World War II. To honor this commitment to Delaware Veterans, Governor Ruth Ann Minner has announced that the State of Delaware will provide a "Certificate of Appreciation" to all Delaware residents who shall have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States during time of peace, conflict or war. To request a "Certificate of Appreciation" the veteran/spouse or next of kin must submit the enclosed application (see page 19) along with a copy of a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, (DD Form 214). DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL.

WWII VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

In support of Lt. Governor John C. Carney, Jr.'s and Secretary of State Harriet Smith Windsor's WWII Veterans History Project, we are soliciting your participation and support in creating and preserving a permanent record of your personal wartime experiences for future generations of Delawareans and other Americans to share and consult. The effort also will be used in support of the National Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Some questionnaires will be selected for a videotaped oral history, while all will be used to create a volume of written histories of WWII veterans from Delaware. Those selected for the videotaped portion of the project will be chosen based on the uniqueness of their questionnaire and the narrative they provide. If you are selected for the videotaped portion of this project, a Veterans History Project staff member will contact you to arrange for a personal interview. To participate in

this preservation effort, please complete the attached questionnaire on pages 15/16 and return it to the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, DE 19904. If you need assistance or further clarification on completing the questionnaire, please call 1-800-344-9900 or (302) 739-2792.

HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING LICENSES

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs (DCVA) in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Division of Fish & Wildlife is now issuing Hunting, Trapping and Fishing ID cards for those Delaware veterans and members of the Armed Forces who meet the exceptions to requirements for licensing under Title 7, Chapter 5, Section 502 of the Delaware Code.

- Any veteran having at least a 60% service-connected disability (certified by the Veterans Administration);
- Or 65 years or older;
- Or blind

For more information, please call (302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 11:00 AM, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, DE. The meeting schedule varies for June and December of each year. These meetings are open to the public. Any individual requiring special accommodations, shall contact this office one week prior to the meeting date. If you would like to attend, please call 1-800-344-9900 (in State) or (302) 739-2792.

MOBILE VETERANS SERVICE CENTER

Ms. White will be providing services for veterans from the mobile Service Center at the following locations:

MAY 04 Bridgeville Town Hall

MAY 05 Bethany Beach Town Hall
MAY 11 Laurel Town Hall
MAY 12 Ocean View Town Hall
MAY 18 Georgetown Service Center
MAY 19 Fenwick Island Town Hall
JUN 08 Seaford Service Center
JUN 09 Bethany Beach Town Hall
JUN 16 Bridgeville Town Hall
JUN 22 Laurel Town Hall
JUN 23 Georgetown Service Center

For more information, contact Ms. White at the Pyle State Service Center, (302) 732-9560.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs

(Kent County) – Ms. Melanie E. Bronov - Dover office - may be reached Monday –Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM, (302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 (in State). Please call for an appointment.

(Sussex County) - Ms. Laurie A. White - Pyle State Service Center located in Roxanna, DE, may be reached Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, (302) 732-9560. Please call for an appointment.

American Legion

Robert McBride, Dept. Service Officer, (302) 633-5323, will visit the following posts between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM on the following dates:

APR 30	David Harrison, Post 14	653-1711
MAY 07	Oak Orchard/Riverdale, Post 28 (8:00-12:00)	945-1673
MAY 14	Walter L Fox, Post 2	674-3922
MAY 21	Laurel, Post 19	875-9948
MAY 28	David Harrison, Post 14	653-1711
JUN 04	Oak Orchard/Riverdale, Post 28 (8:00-12:00)	945-1673
JUN 11	Walter L Fox, Post 2	674-3922
JUN 18	Laurel, Post 19	875-9948
JUN 25	David Harrison, Post 14	653-1711

Paralyzed Veterans of America (DE/MD PVA)

Darrell Johnson, Sr., National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 26, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 633-5325 or (302) 633-5392. Mr. Johnson will make home visits upon request for vets who do not have transportation to the VA. He will be in the Oak Orchard area the 1st Monday, Dover the 2nd Monday, Frederica the 3rd Monday and at the Home of the Brave on the 4th Monday of each month. In addition to our service officer at the Wilmington VA Regional Office, we also have representatives David Timberman and Mike Wynetar, National Liaison Service Officers, at the Home of the Brave on Tuesday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The Home of the Brave is located at 6632 Sharps Rd, Milford, DE (302) 424-1681 or 1682.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Paul Lardizzone, Dept. Service Officer (DAV).
Every Tuesday: DAV Headquarters Building
& Wednesday 183 South Street
(Kent) 8:00-12:00 Camden, DE 19934
(302) 697-9061
Every Thursday: Department of Labor
(Sussex) 8:00-12:00 Div. of Emp & Trng
(302) 856-5230 600 N. DuPont Hwy.
Georgetown, DE 19947

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

Richard Magner, National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 633-5508.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Terry Baker, National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 633-5357

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

James Withrow, Dept. Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 21,

Wilmington, DE 19805, (800) 461-8262 ext. 5326
or (302) 633-5326.

1ST Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milford VFW (422-4412) 1:30-4:00 PM

2nd Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milton VFW (684-4975) 1:30-4:00 PM

3rd Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Rehoboth VFW (227-3469) 1:30-4:00 PM

4th Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Seaford VFW (629-3092) 1:30-4:00 PM

5th Thursday

Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM

NOTE: All persons interested in Outreach Services should first call our office so that some advance information may be obtained to accelerate the application process. Kent & Sussex County residents may call 1-800-461-8262 ext 5326. New Castle County residents may call 633-5326.

NOTE: persons desiring assistance at the Thursday-downstate locations should be at the Delaware DOL no later than 9:00 AM or at the afternoon locations by 2:00 PM. The VFW provides services to veterans and their dependents without respect to veteran service organization affiliation; membership in the VFW is NOT required for service.

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS POC

Military Order of the World Wars

LTC (Ret) Michael C Wilgen.....(302) 292-1964
E-Mail mwilgen@udel.edu

American Legion

Ed Phillips Jr.....(302) 628-5221

AMVETS

John Navitsky.....(302) 994-5657

Disabled American Veterans

Paul Lardizzone.....(302) 697-9061

DE/MD Paralyzed Veterans of America

Wayne Carter.....(302) 368-4898

Jewish War Veterans

Barry Newstadt.....(302) 475-2820

Korean War Veterans Association

Dave Gillan.....(302) 737-2242

Military Order Of The Purple Heart

Bill Carroll.....(302) 655-3820

Military Officers Association of America

Robert Marcinkowski.....(302) 475-6647

American Ex-Prisoners Of War

Howard Melson.....(302) 539-1808

WAVES Nat'l

Ruth Harden.....(302) 998-1373

Vietnam Veterans of America

Robert Corsa.....(302) 933-0119

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Paul Phillips Jr.....(302) 656-5022

The Reserve Officers Association

CWO John V. Hawkins, Sr. (Ret)...(302) 328-8115

**DELAWARE VETERANS
MEMORIAL CEMETERY**

New Castle Co. Section (Bear, DE).....834-8046

Sussex Co. Section (Georgetown, DE).....934-5653

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Claims, Benefits, Veterans Services

(Regional Office).....1-800-827-1000

VA Hospital Scheduling.....1-800-461-8262

.....302-994-2511

Veterans Outreach Center

(New Castle County).....302-633-5360

(Kent and Sussex Counties).....302-422-8011

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Mike Wolanski (VA Regional Ofc)...302-633-5492

Al Barclift (Wilmington).....302-761-8093

Michael Companion (Wilmington).....302-761-8096

Ron Bythwood (Newark).....302-739-5473

Steve Flaherty (Dover).....302-739-5473

Charley Roberson (Dover AFB).....302-677-6942

Norris Townsend (Georgetown).....302-856-5230

Cliff Rumph (Georgetown).....302-856-5230

RETIREE ACTIVITIES

Retired Activities Office

Lt. Col Ken Smith, (USAF RET), Bldg 520, Room 105, Dover AFB, DE 19902, (302) 677-4612.

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office
 Leon Stajkowski, Naval & Marine Corps Reserve
 Center, 3920 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE
 19808, (302) 998-5194.

COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Commissioners may be reached by calling (800)
 344-9900.

Jim Thompson (Chairman).....MCL
 George K. Hastings (Vice Chair).....MOWW
 Cornelius "Bill" Carroll.....MOPH

Richard Ennis.....KWVA
 Ruth B. Harden..... WAVES NAT'L
 Jesse Kitson.....VFW
 Paul Lardizzone.....DAV
 Richard M. Magner.....AMVETS
 Bob Marcinkowski.....MOAA
 Gary "Mo" Morris.....AMERICAN LEGION
 Barry Newstadt.....JWV
 Reese Phillips.....40&8
 David W. Timberman.....DE/MD PVA
 Robert E. Wasson.....DELVETS
 George Webb.....VVA

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Paid for with State Funds

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 the following information below: (Articles should be submitted to the Commission Office directly)

NAME/ORGANIZATION _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____ - _____

**MAIL TO: DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 802 SILVER LAKE BLVD, SUITE 100
 DOVER, DE 19904**

STATE OF DELAWARE

"Serving Delaware's Veterans"

**Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs
Robbins Building
802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, Delaware 19904**

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