

No One Does More for Veterans

Maine VFW Department Service Office



07/29/2016

Department Service Office

[Edition 1, Volume 1]

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS SANDY

The title is a traditional blessing to mariners wishing them a safe and peaceful journey. In this case, it is with a heavy heart we mourn the loss of Louis A "Sandy" Peterson II who unfurled his sails for the final time on February 12, 2017. Sandy held many titles in his life but the one we at the Service Office were most familiar with was boss. As VSO Chairman, Sandy always had words of encouragement and an open ear. We will miss you Sandy.



Louis A. "Sandy" Peterson II

July 2, 1941-February 13, 2017

"Give to the world the best you have, and the best will come back to you." Madeline Bridges

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Department of Maine

VFW Service Officers

Dept. Service Officer:

Cornelius J. Ware Jr.

Email: cornelius.ware@va.gov

Assistant Dept. Service Officer

JoAnn Bolduc

Email: joann.bolduc@va.gov

Togus VFW Service office

207-623-5723





Togus wished a warm welcome to Julie L. Carie February 9 when she was officially installed as the new Director of the VA Regional Office. Originally from Hutchinson MN, Julie is an Air Force Veteran who served 10 years on active duty and 14 years in the Air Force Reserve finally retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant (E9). We in the service office look forward to working with Julie to assist our veterans as completely and efficiently as possible.

Vietnam Veterans 50th Memorial

March 23 saw a special 50th anniversary memorial of the Vietnam War here at Togus. While America cannot take back the injustice and disrespect shown to her sons and daughters when they came home from Vietnam, it is important steps like these that promote the healing process and let them know that they are not forgotten. Until 2025, Togus will hold these commemorations to honor each year we fought in Vietnam and encourage every Vietnam Veteran to come and get the welcome home that has so long been overlooked.



L-R Willis Stanley (4298) Rick Batchelder (4298QM) Bill Schultz(8835 Sr. Vice) and John Poulin (8835 Cmdr) represent at the Vietnam Memorial.



Director Julie Carie (center) and Phil Black prepare to give out pins.



Gov. Paul LePage speaks at The Vietnam Memorial

Service Office Special Operating Hours and Announcements

With the changing operations of the VA, come new responsibilities for your service office. In order to afford adequate time to address these duties, we are using Friday afternoons from 12pm to 4 pm as our administrative time. This does not mean the office is closed. If you have a pressing need, please call the office at 207-623-5723 and we will be happy to help you. The following dates the service office will be closed and no service officers will be available.

April 2-5 NVS Proficiency Training in Annapolis

May 29 Memorial Day

May 21 7th Annual VA2K Happening around the Nation. This event benefits Homeless Veterans. A special attachment to this newsletter will give further details on how you and your post can participate in a location near you.

OUTREACH OUTREACH OUTREACH!!

Tis the season for outreach events. Now that the Service Office has a generic table cover on hand, all you have to do is call and reserve it for your event. Post 3335 in Jay held their Outreach March 30th. (below)



Post Service Officer Helpful Hints!

- It is vital for the Post Service Officer to understand that you must not keep “shadow files” or any personal information related to the veteran/widow you are assisting. It is a huge liability and could result in legal proceedings because the PSO is not accredited by National. Send all necessary paperwork immediately to your State Service Office and give all copies back to the veteran/widow.
- The State Service Office is your first stop in obtaining the most current and accurate information regarding the rules and procedures for the VA claims process. Ebenefits is a nice tool to track issues but is often not up to date with information.
- Ensure veterans understand the rules of compensation and pension; and what they are being compensated for; disability, spouse, children. Failure to understand the “why” may result in overpayments and financial hardship for the veteran and his/her family. Example: Divorce and failing to remove spouse from compensation/pension.
- The Service Office is more than just a “claims processing station”. We also have the ability to direct you to a huge amount of resources. If you have a question: call! You never know what you might find.

KNOW YOUR SO:



Jennifer Leigh Lane 1603

Jen joined the Navy in February 1994, attending boot camp in Orlando. After “A” school, she was stationed at the Naval Reserve Center, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico training Naval Reservists for mobilization. Jen served as a

member of the Auxiliary Security Force, participating in riot control on the island of Vieques during the protests and riots of USN drone sites and use on the island. She transferred in 1997 to Naval Reserve Command in New Orleans, LA, serving as personal assistance to the Admiral administering the Montgomery GI Bill, Chapter 30 and Chapter 1603. In her position of SME, Jennifer conducted training and inspection of commands that administered management of the GI Bill making sure eligibility was entered correctly and to assist in Congressional contact on behalf of the Commander and the service member. Jennifer

was then assigned to Fleet Hospital, JRB Fort Worth. Training for deployment, Jen attended Cold Weather Medicine/Winter Survival Training at the Marine Corp Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, CA and Warm Weather Training at Fort Hood, TX. Shortly after, Jennifer took a billet in a Naval Mobilization Combat Battalion (NMCB) where she participated in field exercises and combat radio training preparing for deployment. She deployed to Germany shortly before September 11th and then was immediately deployed to Bosnia. In Bosnia, she was assigned to security forces to fortify the base and make sure the medical

personnel were prepared for injuries and assisted in flight line hazmat incidences. After returning to the States, Jen was assigned to VP-62 (C-130's) out of Brunswick, Maine. She was recognized for revamping the medical department working with the personnel department, ensuring the department was prepared for incidences and for deployment to Bosnia. Jennifer participated in several deployments back to Bosnia, supplementing command needs.

Jen has a B.A. in Business Administration with minors in Marketing and Advertising. In her passion to continue in the medical field, Jen received her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in the State of New York, and then enrolling in the nursing program at Cayuga College studying for her Registered Nursing degree. Her goal was to work at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center to continue assisting her fellow comrades. Jen worked at the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), Oswego, NY, assisting in primary care clinics, triage and founding the clinics participating in Tele-Health Medicine. Initiating the first telehealth clinics in Oswego County, Jennifer establish 9 clinics to assist veterans in outlying areas, eliminated the travel time and cost to see specialty

providers. Jennifer was a lifetime member of VFW Post 369 in Mexico, NY where she served as Adjutant and Service Officer of the Oswego County Council and a member of the honor guard. Jen accepted a position with VA Maine, administering two Office of Rural Health grant programs. Jennifer traveled the State of Maine, administering the Tele-Retinal Diabetic program. As the first in the country to administer the program, Jen conducted diabetic retina imaging in homes of rural and homebound veterans. This program allowed veterans to continue to receive preventative diabetic care and assist in continued evaluation of retinal deterioration due to diabetes progression. Jen also administered the Palliative Care grant program, collaborating with VA outsourced teams to incorporate mental health assistance to veterans and families through the dying process. These options are not available through the outsourced facilities for Palliative Care and the incorporation of this continuation of care was paramount in providing resources that is normally excluding to our comrades. Jen transferred her membership to VFW Post 1603 where she has served as Junior Vice Commander and Service Officer for the last two years. She also serves

as Quartermaster and Service Officer for VFW District 9. She is a member of the DAV; Military Order of the Cooties and AMVETs. Jennifer currently is Business Manager of Androscoggin Tax and Accounting, an accounting firm started with her finance Mike Spaulding. Jen is trying to establish a chapter of the Lupus Foundation in the State of Maine, which will participate in regional events to bring awareness of the disease, which Jen suffers from, and in the quest of finding a cure. She is also a founding member and serves as Treasurer of Operation Brotherhood, a non-profit organization geared to assist veterans and first responders in rebuilding comradery; Finding a common ground for those suffering from PTSD. Operation Brotherhood has conducted events such as free haircut days in appreciation of veterans and first responders, is planning chartered fishing trips, training seminars and outings to build teamwork to make sure our comrades remember they are never alone.

*Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Service Officers by Post*

<i>2599 Benjamin T. Everett</i>	<i>618 Donald A. Pelkey</i>	<i>9389 Andre L. Dumas</i>
<i>9609 Lester J Dubois</i>	<i>9699 Bruce R. Junkins</i>	<i>1605 Brian Smith</i>
<i>2299 James C. Brawn</i>	<i>4154 Eric E. Buckingham</i>	<i>7529 John H. Schmidt</i>
<i>558 Edward K. Browne</i>	<i>9779 Russell W. Leighton</i>	<i>11553 Charles A. Warden</i>
<i>109 Daniel P. Sullivan</i>	<i>1761 Lawrence K. Holland</i>	<i>3381 Corey E. Carr</i>
<i>4527 Shawn A. Jernigan</i>	<i>4633 Raymond R. Lupo</i>	<i>4298 George F. French</i>
<i>5723 James H. Schoenmann</i>	<i>6924 Stephen G. Dostie</i>	<i>7865 Craig L. Jackson</i>
<i>7866 Elwin A. Matthews</i>	<i>10881 Clyde P. Penney</i>	<i>11191 George W. Mathis</i>
<i>3095 Robert T. Wilshire</i>	<i>3108 James A Roberts</i>	<i>4169 Larry M. Hopkins</i>
<i>6131 Jay E. Mason</i>	<i>9437 Eugene R. Kirkpatrick</i>	<i>2197 Stephen A. Wilkins</i>
<i>4525 John S. Blodgett</i>	<i>7738 Robert E. Joyce</i>	<i>9 Richard E. O'Ben</i>
<i>887 Cornelius J. Ware Jr.</i>	<i>285 Jeremy J. Lockhart</i>	<i>8835 JoAnn Bolduc</i>
<i>9526 Billy Joe Cummins</i>	<i>1603 Jennifer L. Lane</i>	<i>1641 David D. Williams</i>
<i>3335 George B. Wyman</i>	<i>9150 Bertrand A. Dutil</i>	<i>9787 David C. Bradbury</i>
<i>11032 Russell L. Strout</i>	<i>832 Edward H. Cook</i>	<i>6783 Clifford R. Purinton</i>
<i>6859 Bryan E. Noyes</i>	<i>9328 Randall C. Withee</i>	<i>10529 John S. Ames</i>
<i>10643 Dennis Marshall</i>	<i>10879 Alan E. Reed</i>	<i>11362 Catherine R. Merrill</i>
<i>5744 Paul R. La Pierre</i>	<i>6548 Kenneth W. Kingsley</i>	<i>6977 Raymond W. Farnham</i>
<i>7997 Michael A. McInnis</i>	<i>9394 Allen W. Carter</i>	<i>9935 James E.N. Bachelder</i>

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Spotlight On: The Kosovo Campaign Medal. Kosovo Vets have specific recognition of their service in the Balkans. The Kosovo Campaign medal was created on May 3, 2000 and covers both the air campaign waged over Serbia and the subsequent U.S. ground role in the Serbian province of Kosovo. U.S. troops who have participated in or provided direct support for operations in Kosovo since March 24, 1999 are eligible. Because the award is still open, those currently serving there are eligible as well. Eligible duty covers two distinct time

frames: the Kosovo Air Campaign (Operation Allied Force) from March 24, 1999 to June 10, 1999; and the Kosovo Defense Campaign from June 11, 1999 to a date to be determined. The Area of Eligibility for the air campaign encompasses Serbia (including Kosovo), Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Italy and Slovenia-as well as the water and air space of the Adriatic and Ionian seas north of 39 degrees north latitude. All US troops who directly participated in the air campaign are eligible for the medal. This includes

Jan/Feb/Mar 2017
pilots and air crews as well as ground crews based in the AOE.



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Department of Veterans Affairs
Department Service Office
PO BOX 3311
Augusta, ME 04330-3311

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