

NC4VETS NEWSLETTER

"Making North Carolina the Most Veteran Friendly State In America"

OCT. 1st, 2014

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 16



Appreciation Day Recognizes Veteran Retirees



Camp Lejeune, N.C.— It was a day to recognize retired servicemen and women at Marston Pavilion on Camp Lejeune as the annual Retiree Appreciation Day was celebrated.

Speakers, including U.S. Rep. Walter Jones, R-NC, and Ilario Pantano, director for the State Division of Veterans Affairs in North Carolina, addressed attendees while health, wellness, community and veteran services organizations dispensed information.

"Basically, this is to tell the retiree community 'thank you'," Luis Alers, retired affairs officer on the base said. "Retirees are always going out there, volunteering time, fundraisers, soccer dads, soccer moms, etc...this is their day for us to say thank you."

Services, including hearing checks, blood pressure checks and health vaccinations were provided by the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital while several veteran service organizations, including the VA, were on hand to let retirees know what sort of physical and physiological services they provide. Alers says Retiree Appreciation Day is a way to engage the large,

and growing, veteran population in Onslow County.

Retired federal employees make up more than 11,000 people in the Camp Lejeune area, according to the county's most recent population report done in June.

One of the vendors in attendance was Barrett Kahl, an Iraq War veteran and Outreach and Intake Specialist for Family Endeavors, an organization that helps veterans and their families struggling with the unique challenges that come after servicemen and women return from combat. According to the Onslow County United Way's last point in time homeless count, 15 percent of the adult homeless population – 48 total – were veterans. Kahl also mentioned an increase in homeless women veterans, saying that of the 150 veterans he's served in the past year, 44 were women.

"To gain knowledge," Kahl said about what he hopes the public gets out of the day's event. "How many resources are out there, especially for the younger generation, the Iraq-Afghanistan age. There is a plethora of information available. The VA is constantly changing. There's additions of non-profits that can assist through any avenue of struggle you may have."

Fernando Schiefelbein, operations specialist for the base, said the event and the turnout was "outstanding." He hopes retirees have a better understanding of the benefits they've earned through their service.

"There's a lot of veterans that aren't that aware of the services and what they rate," Schiefelbein said. "Talking face to face with all the people here and the organizations educates them and let's them know this is what we can do for you and this is what's changing and bettering our services to you."

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Veterans Homes Update (Sept. 2014)

-Black Mountain-

94 residents
6 admissions

-Fayetteville-

147 residents
9 admissions

-Kinston-

76 residents
7 admissions

-Salisbury-

97 residents
8 admissions

Veterans Cemeteries UPDATE

May Our Brothers and Sisters Rest in Peace (Sept 2014)

-Black Mountain-

32 burials

-Jacksonville-

18 burials

-Spring Lake-

38 burials



NCDVA Presents Annual Awards to Asheville VAMC Employees



Asheville, N.C. – On September 23rd, a small crowd gathered in the multipurpose room at the Charles George VA Medical Center for an awards ceremony presented by the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs. The ceremony focused on honoring key staff members at the facility who had provided exceptional care and support for its Veterans.

In attendance were Ms. Cynthia Breyfogle, Director of the CGVAMC, Mr. Ilario Pantano, Director of NCDVA and various medical staff. Mr. Pantano opened with positive remarks on the Asheville VAMC and applauded the efforts of Ms. Breyfogle and her staff for assisting the Division with their opening of a new Veteran Service Office in the facility. "The collaboration between our two agencies has been spectacular, and we are looking forward to working with local staff in continuing to service veterans."

Facilitating the event, North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs Regional-Training Coordinator Brandon Wilson, praised the efforts and extraordinary special interest each awardee took when assisting Veterans. "Each recipient has made a personal touch in the lives of our Veterans and the assistance they have provided not only affects the

Veteran, but their family as well. Our interagency collaboration has created a more successful process for our Veterans and helps paint the whole picture of Veterans benefits."

Tom Defrange, the Customer Service Manager for the Medical Center received an award for his 21 years of VAMC service, Wilson stated "Mr. Defrange has always seemed to get the brunt of the more difficult cases and not only has he done his job well, but has kept the entirety of Veterans issues on the forefront." Mr. Defrange replied, "In my 21 years with the Charles George VAMC, the current relationship with the VAMC and NCDVA is at its best, and is absolutely positively impacting our Veterans lives."

Hospice Lead Physician Dr. Carol Proctor, received an award for her diligence and approach to caring for her Veterans and their family members. "Dr. Proctor has called our Veterans Service Office asking many questions regarding survivor benefits, her passion to care for a Veterans family after they pass is remarkable. She has impacted so many lives in the last year by her fortitude, and her considerate work should not go unnoticed." Wilson remarked.

Jennifer Palumbo, the Hospice Care Coordinator, exhibits a compassion that is present with each member of her staff. "Ms. Palumbo's efforts often go unnoticed but have an everlasting effect on family members and friends." Wilson said. This was an obvious testimony because Dr. Proctor and Ms. Palumbo were 10 minutes late to the ceremony after they were caring for a Veteran.

Melanie Hobden (LCSW) is the Suicide Prevention Coordinator but her roles go much farther. Ms. Hobden was an integral part in a

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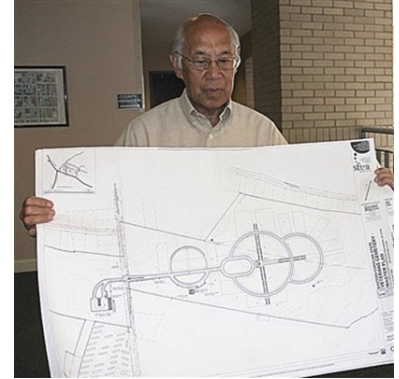
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collaborative effort with NCDVA to better educate staff of the community colleges and Universities in WNC on Veterans issues of PTSD and TBI. "Melanie has worked diligently on this effort and results are clear at several of these institutions, where this work as inspired them to implement testing accommodations, safe zones and better networking with all resources to include service officers and VAMC staff.

John Cowart (LCSW) the assistant Chief of Social Work was the last recipient of the morning, but definitely not the least. When speaking about Mr. Cowart, Wilson got a little emotional. "When I first started as a Service Officer I was interviewing a Veteran on some issues, upon asking this Veteran if they received any mental health treatment the response was, "yes I do and I see John Cowart, he saved my life." This statement has echoed in everything Cowart has done. His reputation here is exceptional and not only has he been an advocate for Veterans, but a mentor to most employees inside and outside the Asheville VAMC." In addition, Wilson addressed the Vietnam Memorial Wall Trip that Cowart had organized and completed for the past 15 years. "Mr. Cowart's trip to Washington and the Vietnam Wall is probably the most effective, somber and rehabilitating trip any veteran can be involved in." In Closing Mr. Wilson acknowledged the Asheville VAMC with their

efforts in collaborating with NCDVA and their staff's ongoing efforts to keep a holistic approach to serving our Veterans and dependents both from the health care and benefits administrations.

Wayne County looks to Honor Veterans as Home to New State Veterans Cemetery



Raleigh, N.C.—The North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs has been awarded a Federal Grant in the amount of 5.3 billion dollars to construct and establish a new State Veterans Cemetery in Wayne County, North Carolina. The grant is from the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Cemetery Grant Service office in Washington, D.C. The new cemetery will be on property acquired by the Wayne County Commission and transferred to the State for the specific purpose of establishing a State Veterans Cemetery. The property is located off of Longs Plant Farm Road, just off of US 70 East.

The cemetery was designed by the firm sfl+a, with Eric Lindstrom as lead architect. Mr. Lindstrom was also the design architect of the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake when he worked for The Rose Group. The NC State Construction Office has been involved from the very beginning overseeing all phases of design and development and will now oversee and monitor the construction phase from start to finish. The General Contractor will be Daniels and Daniels from Goldsboro. Eli Panee, cemetery program manager with the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs

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JOBS


Our Career Expos are FREE for job seekers to attend!

To obtain a list of companies exhibiting at this Career Expo please visit NCOA.org

ncoacareerexpos.org

Pre-register for this Career Expo.

You will receive a confirmation e-mail when pre-registration is complete. The list of companies will be sent via email 3 - 5 days before the Career Expo.



Mission 2014:
Connecting American Heroes with American Jobs

We want YOU - our Transitioning U.S. Military Servicemembers, Veterans & Military Spouses to

JOIN US

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
10:00AM - 2:00PM
CHERRY POINT

Havelock Tourist & Event Center
201 Tourist Center Drive
Havelock, NC 29532

For Exhibitor Information please call:
Shelley Conklin at (210) 837-6200
Jeri Glowacki at (210) 385-3532



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said that while blueprint plans have changed periodically, final drawings have been completed and received the OK by nearly every sanctioning organization.

"We were one of 15 states fighting for money for veterans' cemeteries," Panee said. "The artist's rendering has changed dramatically. One change came when we saw the committal shelter was on low ground, and we'll have to add 2½ feet of fill.

Last year, Wayne County paid \$468,000 for two tracts of land, which combined for 50 acres, from Harry and Mollie Ivey. Another 26 acres were donated by the Wayne County Development Alliance. All 76 acres will be transferred to the state, which will have five employees — two administrators and three grounds workers — on the cemetery site. "Phase I of this will cover 10 years," Panee said. "If we start to see we need to do more in, say eight years, we'll do that. We're starting with close to 6,000 gravesites, 868 columbarium and 985 cremation sites with pre-placed crypt slips, which will save families between \$700 and \$1,000."

The plans include an entrance that runs into two huge connected circles, with space around both the inside and outside of the circles.

The start of construction is scheduled for late November with an estimated completion date of early fall 2015. With the completion of this cemetery, which will be known as the Eastern Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, it will join the Coastal Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Jacksonville, the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake and the Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain, in providing burial services to North Carolina's honorably discharged veterans and their spouse and dependents across the state.

Employment Opportunities

The following employers are seeking Veterans for employment:

Amidon Contracting Solutions

3319 Heritage Trade Dr, Wake Forest, NC
27587 (919) 435-5355

www.amidoninc.com

Appalachian State University

The Office of Human Resources –Employment
330 University Hall Dr.

Boone, NC 28607

Employment@appstate.edu

To check postings or to create an online application, go to: www.jobs.appstate.edu.

Department of Human Resources

Maria Torain Byrd

Human Resources Consultant, Employment

206-A Hubbard-Totton Building
North Carolina Central University

Durham, NC 27707

Telephone: 919-530-7136

Granite Construction

1011 Schaub Drive – Suite B

Raleigh, NC 27606

(919) 615-3888

Lord Corporation

111 Lord Dr. Cary NC 27511.

(919) 388-0274

www.lord.com/careers.xml

Pepsi Bottling Ventures

Mike Tull

HR Manager

Northern Division W-410-341-9052

www.pepsibottlingventures.com/careers/

Warrior Bridge—A Service Source Program

600 Ames Street

Fayetteville, NC 28301

Phone: (910) 826-4699,

www.servicesource.org

NC Commerce

*Occupational Statistics offers detailed wage and estimated employment information for occupations based on occupational title or description and geography. To find out more, visit: <http://accessnc.commerce.state.nc.us>

The 2nd Annual NCDVA Innovation Awards

Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower. – Steve Jobs

For the Fall Training Conference this year I am asking for your innovative ideas on how we, as an Agency, can exploit available technology to advance our objectives.

As all of you now know, we are moving forward with the speed of “might” to create products that will allow us to reach more veterans, their family members, and their survivors with not only VA benefits information but also resources across a broad spectrum within our State. Those products will include, but will not be limited to, a new NC4Vets Website, NCDVA catalogue, and state-wide advertising such as bumper stickers, billboards, etc.

Now it is your turn to contribute to these goals by submitting idea(s) that will “Make North Carolina the State of Choice for Veterans”. Please have your submissions turned in to myself or Daniel Hackley no later than October 10, 2014. All ideas will be displayed at the Fall Training Conference and all attendees will be able to vote on them. The 1st place winner will receive a prize so spectacular that we don’t dare publish it in this newsletter!!!

Glenn Batten

NCDVA Assistant Director

Glenn.Batten@doa.nc.gov

Daniel.Hackley@doa.nc.gov

US Chamber & Raleigh Chamber to
Partner for Hiring our Heroes Oct. 23!

When:

Thursday Oct. 23, 2014

Where:

Claude T. Bowers Building 4105
Reedy Creek Road Raleigh NC

Time:

8:30am-1pm

Hiring Our Heroes is a nationwide initiative to help veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses find meaningful employment opportunities.

For more information of the following services, please visit:

www.uschamberfoundation.org/hiring-our-heroes

- [Build a Resume](#)
- [Find a Hiring Fair](#)
- [Employment Workshops](#)
- [Find a Mentor](#)
- [Webinars](#)
- [Share Your Experience](#)
- [Search for Jobs](#)

CAPITAL ONE & USCCF PRESENT

HIRING 500,000 HEROES

AS OF MARCH 31, 2014

0 100,000 200,000 300,000 400,000 500,000

COMMITMENTS

411,000

CONFIRMED HIRES

255,000

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Concerns Flood Salisbury VA Town Hall Meeting



SALISBURY, N.C. -- In the wake of a VA medical scandal, VA Secretary Bob McDonald is trying to fix backlogs and improve healthcare.

He's mandated hospitals reach out to patients through town hall meetings, and Salisbury's VA Medical Center held their first one on Sept. 16th.

It started slowly, but before long the concerns flooded the floor at the Salisbury VA Medical Center.

"They never look at the Navy guy and the stress we go through on ships. They always say well if you ain't shot then that's it for that," said Otto Borden.

Dozens of vets like Borden voiced their issues with healthcare at the center.

Medical Center Director Kaye Green pointed to three areas already pinpointed improvement needs with parking, the phone system and access to care. Green noted the hospital wants better lines of communication with patients in the future.

"We're also going to install I care card boxes at every patient care building on our campus and in our clinics and tell us what we did well or tell us what we didn't do well," said Green.

Green says the Salisbury VAMC has grown in patients by 80 percent over ten years compared to twenty percent at VAs combined across the country.

Questions from veterans were varied and

included inquiries about access to more mental health care, more time spent with primary care doctors, long wait times for surgery, and disability benefits questionnaires.

Ciatt Shabazz spoke at the meeting. Shabazz runs an organization which helps veterans get access to healthcare. Her brother, a veteran, died after battling colon cancer. She says his illness wasn't diagnosed by doctors at the VA. She said, "I would've felt OK if my brother died in battle, but my brother died at the hands of those who said that after serving his country, that they would serve him well medically."

Shabazz is frustrated because she says doctors aren't filling out the necessary paperwork at the VA to help veterans speed up the process.

The VA says they have staff members specifically dedicated to work on paperwork, and they vow to look into each matter that was brought to them at the town hall meeting, including providing more specialty care and better primary care. Carroll Triplett, a veteran, said, "By these physicians just wanting to get them in and out, I think we need a lot more attention done to those doctors and something done about it."

Next Meeting: Oct. 23rd

Register by 10/20/14 to Attend

GOVERNOR'S WORKING GROUP
ON VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES
MAKING NORTH CAROLINA THE STATE OF CHOICE FOR VETERANS

Established by Executive Order in April 2014, the [Governor's Working Group on Veterans, Service Members, and their Families \(GWG\)](#) is dedicated to bringing federal, state, and local agencies and organizations together to meet military-connected needs, whether they are physical and behavioral health, education, employment, or social services.

The GWG meets monthly and welcomes community providers in addressing these needs through collaboration, networking, and strategic planning.

Preregister on-line at:

www.ncveteransworkinggroup.com

A project of the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. Hosted by the [Governor's Institute on Substance Abuse](#).





OCTOBER 1st, 2014

N C D V A "Making North Carolina the Most Veteran Friendly State In America"

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			CVMSDC PRAC COM NC Port of Wilmington	NC OA Career Expo Havelock Tourist & Event Center 10:00—2:00		
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Warrior Jam/ Operation Outreach Fayetteville, N.C.		Job Fair UNC Greensboro 5:30—6:30 p.m.				Rev it Up for Vets Car Show VVA ch. 994 Franklin, N.C.
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Columbus Day Air Force Memorial Acceptance			NCDVA Veterans Seminar Elizabeth City, N.C.	Operation North States Peer Fishin' Festival Oak Island, N.C.	Step Up For Soldiers Combat Mud Run NG Armory Wilmington, N.C.
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Veterans Benefits Action Center Operation Plan and Procedures Fuquay-Varina, N.C.		Governors Working Group NCNG Headquarters Raleigh, N.C.	United National Day	Agent Orange/ Dixion Town Hall Meeting Candler, N.C.
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		NCDVA Annual Fall Training Conference Atlantic Beach, N.C. From Boots to Suits Harris Conference Ctr. Charlotte, N.C.	NCDVA Annual Fall Training Conference Atlantic Beach, N.C.	NCDVA Annual Fall Training Conference Atlantic Beach, N.C.		

NCDVA Crisis Center Model & Veterans Solutions Events Will Take Place on the Following Dates and Times

*** NCDVA Crisis Center Model**

Oct. 23, 2014—Waynesville, N.C. 9:00-12:00 p.m.
 Oct. 23, 2014—Hendersonville, N.C. 2:00-5:00 p.m.
 Oct. 24, 2014—Morganton, N.C. 9:00-12:00 p.m.

*** Veterans' Solutions, with Congressman Mark Meadows**

Oct. 23, 2014—Waynesville, N.C. 9:00-12:00 p.m.
 Oct. 23, 2014—Hendersonville, N.C. 2:00-5:00 p.m.
 Oct. 24, 2014—Lenoir, N.C. 9:00-12:00 p.m.

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VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 124 ASHEVILLE, NC

AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN TOWN HALL MEETING



AGENT
ORANGE
EDUCATION
CAMPAIGN

Do you have questions about Agent Orange/Dioxin?

A program for Vietnam Veterans, dependents, and their survivors will discuss health issues related to Agent Orange/Dioxin exposure and its multigenerational effects.

An overview will be presented regarding benefits available to Vietnam Veterans their dependents and survivors. The claims process will thoroughly be reviewed step by step.

Panel experts, from the National Office of Vietnam Veterans of America: Mokie Porter, Herb Worthington Tom Berger, Ph.D. Also Jack McManus, Operation Ranch Hand and Tony Mussolino, VVA Certified Veteran Service Officer, will be providing important information for those attending.

Impact on the family/birth defects will be highlighted. Accredited Veteran Service Officers from the Counties of Western North Carolina and North Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs will be available to discuss individual claims.

DATE/TIME:

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 25, 2014
12-6 PM**

(LIGHT SNACK PROVIDED)

LOCATION:

**A-B TECH/ENKA CAMPUS,
HAYNES BLDG.**

1459 SAND HILL ROAD
CANDLER, NC 28715

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION PLEASE
VISIT CHAPTER 124
WEBSITE:**

[HTTP://ASHVVA124.ORG](http://ashvva124.org)

OR CALL:

**ALLAN PERKAL
(808) 383-7877**

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2014 PITT COUNTY STAND DOWN

A Stand-Down is a day of helping homeless veterans

Volunteers and donations are needed to help with this event!! Donations can be new clothes, packaged water or packaged food.

When: Friday, October 24th, 2014

Where: Eppes Center – 400 Nash Street, Greenville, NC

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Volunteer Times: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Monetary donations can be made to QSA Foundation and mailed to PO Box 2767, Winterville, NC 28590

**Visit or Like our Facebook page:
QSA FOUNDATION CORP**

FROM BOOTS TO SUITS

Empowering Veterans' Transition into the Workforce



Oct 28th | 10am-4:30+pm | Harris Conference Center | Charlotte, NC



NDC CAROLINAS
DIVERSITY COUNCIL



CENTRAL PIEDMONT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FREE for Veterans looking
for jobs in the Charlotte area

Train to "pitching" yourself,
lunch, & all companies speed
network with you at **your** table

- Aerotek
- BlueCross NC
- CHS
- Food Lion
- Ingersoll Rand
- Red Ventures
- Ricoh USA
- Snyder's-Lance
- TIAA-CREF
- Wells Fargo

Salute to Women of the Military Past and Present



October 30, 2014

11:30AM ~ 1:30PM

Buffet lunch promptly at 12 Noon



Guest Speaker: Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, USAF (Ret)

Havelock Tourist and Event Center

Tickets \$20

Table sponsor \$250

(8 tickets plus donation tax receipt for \$90)

Tickets available at:

(Ticket sales final day Oct. 24)

Promise Place

1401 Park Ave.
New Bern
252-636-3381

D.A.V. Office

468 Hwy 70 W
Westbrook Shopping Ctr. Havelock
252-652-9166

Sponsors:

Promise Place

Craven County Veterans Service Office

Eastern Region, NC Council For Women

Media Sponsor:

SunJournal



www.facebook.com/SaluteMilitaryWomen



AGENT ORANGE
EDUCATION
CAMPAIGN

North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc. &
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #530
are sponsoring:

Live Streaming Event

**"Agent Orange and
it's Deadly Legacy"**

"Town Hall Meetings" via the internet

Part 1: November 12th; 8PM to 9PM

Part 2: November 26th; 8PM to 9PM

You can listen, watch and participate through:

www.ncvvi.org,

www.nissancommunications.com

Skype: computers2kvoice or phone 919-518-9773

You May Find Yourself in Need of the Information, Don't Miss it

As we observe the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War, Vietnam Veterans and their families are still being affected by the effects of the defoliants that were used in South East Asia.

Veterans, and their children and grandchildren are today, as over the past 50 years, becoming ill or being born with illnesses associated to the defoliants used.



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (National, State Council and Chapter #530)



North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc.



The United States of America 50th Vietnam War Commemoration

ANSON COUNTY'S ANNUAL VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION CELEBRATING HOMETOWN HEROES TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2014

10:00 am – Veteran's Day Parade

11:00 am – Veteran's Day Ceremony

Noon – 3 pm – Community Fun with
Music, Games and Refreshments

*(VA Rural Health Care Team will be available
along with other resources for veterans)*

**Come and join us for
this great celebration.**

Any questions, contact Ted Ward at (704) 694-4418
or tward@co.anson.nc.us