



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



This "remember" heading was used in the last issue of the Sitrep to herald the impending arrival of the Traveling Vietnam Veterans Wall along with other displays to honor those who have served this great nation. Now it is a banner to remind the elected officials in Washington DC to "remember" that they can serve this nation because of our Veterans. Something they appear to have forgotten.

Please read this quote from Suzanne Gordon, a senior policy analyst at the Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute:

*Well, in a Federal Register filing on March 14th, the VA secretary proposed shuttering VA medical centers in rural and urban areas, eliminating much inpatient care, including needed inpatient psychiatric beds. He recommended closing emergency departments, mental-health services, VHA outpatient clinics, and residential treatment programs for patients with PTSD and substance abuse problems. In areas where VHA doctors and nurses would then no longer have the capacity to do surgical procedures or provide other inpatient care, VA clinical staff would be "embedded" in private hospitals.*

*This would turn the second-largest federal department into a temp agency for private industry. It would also jeopardize the VA's capacity to continue serving as a nationwide backup system for overwhelmed private-sector facilities during local or national crisis situations, like the pandemic. It would definitely have an adverse impact on the VA's nationwide "teaching hospital" role because many new physicians now trained at the VHA require inpatient settings and must perform the requisite number of procedures for their clinical rotations.*

At this time I have attended two meetings with VA Hudson Valley leadership, one was organized by Congressman Maloney's staff. I have read a lengthy document with the cumbersome title "VA Recommendations to the Asset And Infrastructure Review Commission: VISN 02 Market Recommendations. VISN 02 is the designation the VA uses for the VA facilities that included the Hudson Valley Healthcare System. Also all of NY State and part of New Jersey. I have asked questions and I have gotten zero answers.

Why if there are 30 acres of land that can be developed at Castle Point, as the report states, are the going to build a new facility n Fishkill on land that the VA does not own?

What are the going o do with Castle Point in the close it down? This is prime real estate overlooking the Hudson River?

If there are fewer Veterans going to Castle Point why is it that Veterans seeking compensation and pension exams may have to travel up 100 miles away for that exam?

In the report it is noted that 56 "Veteran Listening Sessions" held between March and June 2021. Unless the participants were sworn to secrecy why has not a single participant spoken out? I have been at 3 meetings with the VA regarding the report and not one Veteran who attended these alleged "listening sessions" has come forward.

Please be wary of this action by the VA and our government! Let you elected officials know this is not right!

A good article covers a single issue. However the VA is not stopping at just closing down VA facilities they are planning on cutting benefits for Veterans as well.

The VA is calling the proposed cuts "modernizing the evaluation criteria" and the also state that the proposed changes will not impact any Veteran currently receiving compensation for these disabilities. So they say.

There are two proposed changes that will impact future claims for compensation. The first is for tinnitus. Veterans at this time get compensation for tinnitus due to what is called military acoustic trauma. They can also get rated for hearing loss for the same cause. Two separate ratings. Going forward tinnitus would no longer be a standalone compensable disability. It would be a symptom of an underlying disease that caused it. At this time over 1.5 million Veterans have this service connected disability.

The other disability that the VA is euphemistically "updates" is with sleep apnea. They are going to rule that if a Veteran is rated 50% compensation for seep apnea and that Veteran is given a CPAP machine the rating would go to 0%. So that translates to we gave you a pill so your OK now. Where will that stop. We gave you a prosthetic leg so now you have two limbs so we are not going to recognize your disability. We gave you a pill for your type 2 diabetes that you got from exposure to Agent Orange but your A1C readings ar OK so we are not going to compensate you for your disability.

This has got to stop. Call your elected officials and pitch a bitch!



# YOU ARE NOT ALONE IN YOUR FIGHT, WE SUPPORT **UKRAINE!**



**PUTNAM SUPPORTS THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE  
CRITICAL SUPPLIES URGENTLY NEEDED**

*TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE A DONATION VISIT*

**PUTNAMCOUNTYCARES.COM/UKRAINEAID**



Putnam County government is teaming up with members of the local Polish Community to send food, supplies, medicine and monetary donations to help the millions of Ukrainian refugees who have taken shelter in Poland.

A Mother's Day Weekend collection drive for the much-needed supplies will be held Friday, May 6 through Sunday, May 8 at the Paladin Center, 39 Seminary Hill Road, Carmel.

"We can't just sit back and watch a country be destroyed and its citizens displaced and not offer to help," Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell said. "Poland is doing its share. Putnam County residents want to help, too. Our collection drive is Mother's Day weekend, and there is no better time to support all the families of Ukraine who have been driven from their homes."

The list of items needed ranges from diapers, formula and other baby needs, to sanitary supplies for women and snack items like juice boxes and energy bars for children. Also needed are shampoo, toothpaste and over-the-counter pain medicines like Tylenol, etc.

The county created a website for the event that includes the entire list of supplies needed, an Amazon link to donate medical supplies, links for how to help with monetary donations and a sign-up for volunteering your time. See: [putnamcountycares.com/ukraineaid/](https://putnamcountycares.com/ukraineaid/)

The collection hours at the Paladin Center will be Friday, May 6, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, May 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.





# Veterans Benefit Dinner

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**SUCCESS**



7:00 PM  
\$50.00 per Person

Make checks payable to: *German American Social Club*

**Bavarian Schnitzel Dinner**  
**Full Cash Bar Available**  
**Entertainment provided by Joe Unger**

The NET Proceeds will be donated to:  
**Putnam County Joint Veterans Council**  
with stipulation for the AVTT Traveling Wall

**THANK YOU**

Thanks and a salute  
To the German American Club for the  
Donation of \$3700 to help with the cost of  
the Traveling Wall Vietnam Veterans Wall  
and other Patriotic displays coming to  
Putnam County this September.



# A Powerful Veterans Program

Our focus in this 5-session program is on helping Veterans rebuild healthy relationships. Our horses and facilitators will support you and your journey with respect and skill. Activities are non-riding. No horse experience is necessary.

*"I learned how to handle stress and to help anger management issues I have. I learned the way of the horse. It's changed my life, there's no doubt about it." - Art H*



Sponsored by Dwyer Vet2Vet Putnam, Guardian Revival, The Equus Effect, and Pegasus

Thursdays, 10am - 2pm



6/2 ~ 6/9 ~ 6/16 ~ 6/23 ~ 6/30

**\*No cost to participants\***



Hosted at our beautiful Pegasus Farm therapeutic riding center (address below). Bring a bagged lunch and water bottle. **Participants must attend all five sessions.**

Megan Castellano  
Dwyer Vet2Vet Putnam  
a program of Guardian Revival, Inc.  
megancastellano@guardianrevival.org





# Senator Pete Harckham's Veterans Advisory Council Meeting



Please join us as we continue to address the needs of the veteran community within our district and throughout New York State!

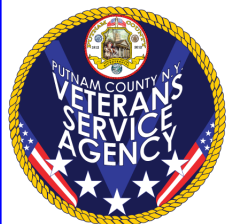


**When: Wednesday May 11, 2022**

**Time: 18:30 to 20:00 (6:30 p.m to 8:00 p.m.)**

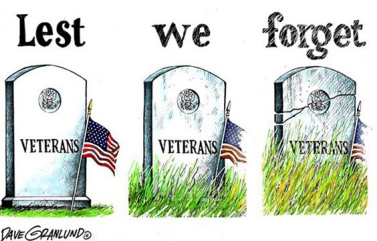
**Where: VFW Carmel Post 1374  
32 Gleneida Ave, Carmel NY**

**Food & refreshments will be available**



**DONALD B. SMITH GOVERNMENT CAMPUS  
110 OLD ROUTE 6, BLDG. #3  
CARMEL NY 10512  
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-5  
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT EITHER LOCATION  
845-808-1620**

**KARL ROHDE, DIRECTOR  
ART HANLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR**



DAVE SPANLUNDO



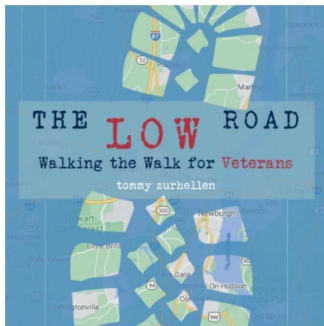
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# Bulletin Board



## The Low Road: Walking the Walk for Veterans

Wednesday, May 25 @ 7 PM

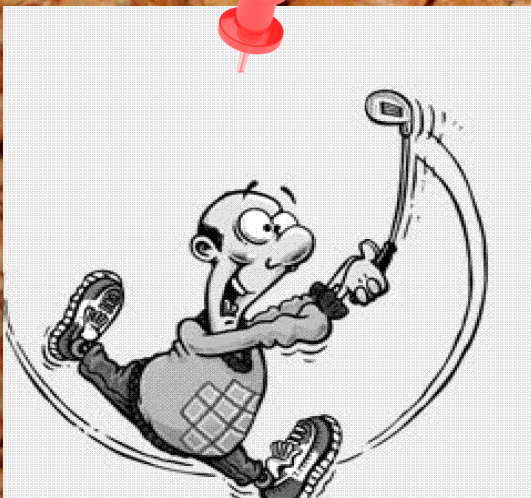


Tommy Zurhellen will discuss his memoir: "The Low Road: Walking for Veterans," which chronicles his epic journey walking 2866 miles across America to raise awareness of veteran suicide and homelessness.

Books will be available for purchase at \$22 representing the 22 vets that commit suicide each day.

Net proceeds will benefit Hudson River Housing's VetZero project.

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## Joseph J & Rachel Morrissey Memorial Golf Tournament

**SPONSOR:** VFW Post 9257

**DATE:** Monday, June 20, 2022

**TIME:** Registration – 11:00 – 12:30  
BBQ Lunch - 11:00 - 12:30  
1:00 pm Shotgun

**Start**

**PLACE:** Putnam County Golf Club  
187 Hill Street  
Mahopac, New York

**COST:** \$170.00 per player

**INCLUDES:** Greens fee & Cart (18 Holes)  
Lunch/Dinner/ Refreshments

**Hole-in-one Contest for:** 2022 Car

**Prize for Closest to the Pin**

Prizes

**CONTACT:**  
Scotty Cairney  
845-279-5214