



American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

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American Legion Post 1758,
Junction, NY 12533

PO Box 92,

Hopewell

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Our next meeting will be February 12, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Whortlekill Rod and Gun Club.

Holiday Party

On December 9th County Commander Chico Humphries and his wife were our guests at our annual Holiday Party. Twenty-four of us joined together at JT's Manor in Hopewell for a nice afternoon of camaraderie, food and drink.

Jim Reynolds shared a review of the Post's accomplishments for 2012 and gave each member present an American Legion window decal hoping all will display it proudly.

Don Burns won our cash raffle and generously donated the proceeds to our Post. Nice gesture, Don, Thank You!

Commander Reynolds, Dan Briscoe and Norm Dauerer donated the pitchers of beer and bottles of wine for the tables. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and had plenty of time to chat and catch up on each others' lives.

You can see pictures of the party by visiting the Post web site at:

<http://www.4ever66.com/legionpost1758/id28.html>

Happy
New Year

The difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson.

Tom Bodett

Living space available for Veteran in need. Do you know a homeless Veteran? Neil Klock has room in his home and is willing to take in a Veteran. Contact Neil at 845-227-6091

Commander Reynolds and Adjutant Pizzuti joined the swearing in celebration of Assemblyman Kieran Lalor at The Links in Unionvale on Sunday, January 6th. Mr. Lalor, Marine, Iraqi War Veteran, and a member of our Post invited Reynolds and Pizzuti to represent the American Legion at his swearing in.



VA Claims Backlog Milestone

Week of January 07, 2013

The Veterans Affairs Department's disability claims backlog edged above the 900,000 mark this week, with 608,365 -- 67.6 percent -- staying in the system more than 125 days. Claims backlogged more than 125 days increased 7.5 percent or 45,245 since January, 2012. In April, representatives of veterans services organizations [described](#) the backlog of 897,566 disability claims, with more than 65 percent pending for more than 125 days, as a "staggering" figure that denies veterans quick payment of benefits. VA plans to deploy its paperless Veterans Benefits Management System nationwide next year in an attempt to boost claims processing. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki has repeatedly vowed to eliminate the claims backlog by 2015. For more information on VA disability claims, visit the VA website at www.benefits.va.gov/compensation

Special Notice: If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call this toll-free number 1-800-273-8255, available 24/7, and tell them you are a veteran. All calls are confidential.

SUICIDE PREVENTION 1-800-273-TALK
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

**Good Of The Legion:**

Francis Connolly's name was pulled for the Pot Of Gold Drawing. Unfortunately Francis was not in attendance so the money is added to the Pot.

Contributions

At our January meeting we discussed distributing some of our funds to worthy causes. We voted to make three donations at this time:

- \$100 to the Dutchess County War Memorial.
- \$65 to the Gold Star Mothers for their state convention.
- \$50 to Patriot Paws which trains service dogs to assist wounded Veterans.



Commander Reynolds presents a plaque to Neil Klock in appreciation of his contributions as Commander for the past two years.

**Castle Point is always looking for
volunteers in a variety of positions.
Call (845) 831-2000**

Priority Groups Table

The number of Veterans who can be enrolled in the health care program is determined by the amount of money Congress gives VA each year. Since funds are limited, VA set up Priority Groups to make sure that certain groups of Veterans are able to be enrolled before others.

Once you apply for enrollment, your eligibility will be verified. Based on your specific eligibility status, you will be assigned a Priority Group. The Priority Groups range from 1-8 with 1 being the highest priority for enrollment. Some Veterans may have to agree to pay copay to be placed in certain Priority Groups.

You may be eligible for more than one Enrollment Priority Group. In that case, VA will always place you in the highest Priority Group that you are eligible for. Under the Medical Benefits Package, the same services are generally available to all enrolled Veterans. VA determines your eligibility for VA's comprehensive medical benefits package through our patient enrollment system, which is based on Priority Groups from 1 through 8.

Priority Group 1

- Veterans with VA Service-connected disabilities rated 50% or more.
- Veterans assigned a total disability rating for compensation based on unemployability.

Priority Group 2

- Veterans with VA Service-connected disabilities rated 30% or 40%.

Priority Group 3

- Veterans who are former POWs.
- Veterans awarded the Purple Heart Medal.
- Veterans awarded the Medal of Honor.
- Veterans whose discharge was for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.
- Veterans with VA Service-connected disabilities rated 10% or 20%.
- Veterans awarded special eligibility classification under Title 38, U.S.C., § 1151, "benefits for individuals disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation."

Priority Group 4

- Veterans receiving increased compensation or pension based on their need for regular Aid and Attendance or by reason of being permanently Housebound.
- Veterans determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled.

Priority Group 5

- Nonservice-connected Veterans and noncompensable Service-connected Veterans rated 0%, whose annual income and/or net worth are not greater than the VA financial thresholds.
- Veterans receiving VA Pension benefits.
- Veterans eligible for Medicaid benefits.

Priority Group 6

- Compensable 0% Service-connected Veterans.
- Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- Project 112/SHAD participants.
- Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975.
- Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 2, 1990, through November 11, 1998.
- Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, as follows:
 - Veterans discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003, for five years post discharge

Priority Group 7

- Veterans with incomes **below** the geographic means test (GMT) income thresholds and who agree to pay the applicable copayment.

Priority Group 8

- Veterans with gross household incomes above the VA national income threshold and the geographically-adjusted income threshold for their resident location and who agrees to pay copays

Veterans eligibility for enrollment: Noncompensable 0% service-connected and:

- Subpriority a: Enrolled as of January 16, 2003, and who have remained enrolled since that date and/ or placed in this subpriority due to changed eligibility status.
- Subpriority b: Enrolled on or after June 15, 2009 whose income exceeds the current VA National Income Thresholds or VA National Geographic Income Thresholds by 10% or less

Veterans eligible for enrollment: Nonservice-connected and:

- Subpriority c: Enrolled as January 16, 2003, and who remained enrolled since that date and/ or placed in this subpriority due to changed eligibility status
- Subpriority d: Enrolled on or after June 15, 2009 whose income exceeds the current VA National Income Thresholds or VA National Geographic Income Thresholds by 10% or less

Veterans not eligible for enrollment: Veterans not meeting the criteria above:

- Subpriority e: Noncompensable 0% service-connected
- Subpriority g: Nonservice-connected