

# Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

*In Service to America*



## Meeting Notice

20 February, 2019

**Elks Lodge 5555 W. Good Hope Rd.**

**Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.**

**Chapter Meeting 7 - 8 p.m.**

### **Future Meetings: 2019**

20 March, 17 April

15 May, 19 June, 17 July, 21 August, 18 September

Chapter web page: [www.vietnamvetschapter324.com](http://www.vietnamvetschapter324.com)

National web page: [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org)

## Chapter Officers

President: Pat Ciofani rezmel(at)sbcglobal.net  
414-702-7734

Vice Pres: Oliver Williams w.oliver96(at)yahoo.com  
414-358-4416

Secretary: Dennis Symanski dski06(at)hotmail.com  
414-453-3600

Treasurer: Pat Moore irishpatat(at)sbcglobal.net  
414-354-2533 Cell: 414-731-6029

Director: David Titter d.titterat(at)sbcglobal.net  
414-870-7012

Director: John Morgan asa600(at)aol.com  
414-871-9274

Membership: Joe Herbert Joe's a Luddite  
414-873-7341

Newsletter: John Zutz john(at)zutz.org

John is listed in the phone book - good luck finding one

## Life Membership for all Veterans

VVA is offering LIFE memberships for \$50. If you have been getting a 1 year membership for \$20 you will need to pay \$50 at your next renew or be dropped from the VVA. If you paid \$50 at your last renewal you will become a LIFE member automatically without any further payment. NEW members will only have the \$50 LIFE membership when they join. (with a DD214 submitted).

VVA and AVVA Membership Applications are available on the back page of this newsletter or on line at the [VVA.Org](http://VVA.Org) or the [AVVA.Org](http://AVVA.Org) websites in the Forms tab.

## Chapter 324 to stop mailing

**First Class mail has increased to \$.55. The April newsletter is the last that Chapter 324 will send via USPS. The newsletter will be available on our web page, or we will e-mail it to you, on request. This will allow color photos, etc. and also allow expanded coverage.**

**We hope you find this newsletter useful. As members you deserve to know what the Chapter is doing.**

### Members:

- **If you get the newsletter via e-mail you don't have to do anything.**
- **If you get the newsletter by snail-mail, send an e-mail to [john\(at\)zutz.org](mailto:john(at)zutz.org) to order your copy.**

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
**Milwaukee Chapter 234**  
**January 16, 2019**

**Meeting called to Order at 7:00 pm**

**A Moment of Silence** was observed for our brothers and sisters no longer with us, for all POW/MIA's and their families and for all serving our country

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Attendance** – Dennis Szymanski, Pat Ciofani, David Titter, John Morgan, John Zutz, Joe Herbert, Pat Moore, Dennis McCormack

**Minutes of the November 21, 2018 meeting reviewed and accepted**

**Treasurer's Report – Pat Moore - \$3051.99 balance in our checking account**

**Communications**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**VVA/AVVA Membership Update – Joe Herbert – National is converting all to life memberships through annual renewal upgrades**

**Website – Contact Pat Moore to post items of interest on our website**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Donation for UWM Veteran Students – Pat Ciofani is in contact with UWM regarding a donation to help Veteran students – Should have more info next month**

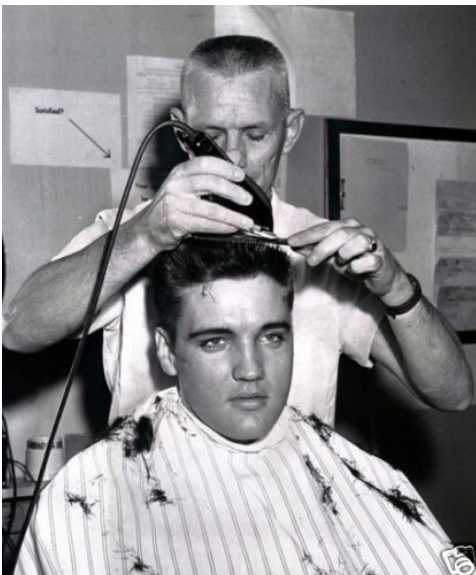
**February Stand Down – Moved and passed to donate \$300 to the February Stand Down**

**State VVA Meeting in March**

**News Letter – April will be the last month our newsletter will be mailed – It will be available to all who provide an email address and will also be on our website**

**Elections – Board of Directors will be elected in April – Please consider stepping forward and becoming a director in your chapter**

**Adjournment – 7:30**



**Elvis birthday:**  
**January 8, 1935**



## Space-A flights now available for 100% disabled veterans

CHERYL HINNEBURG JANUARY 11, 2019 <https://americanmilitarynews.com/author/cheryl-hinneburg/>

With the New Year came newly approved benefits for service members and disabled veterans, including Space-A access for disabled veterans.

On Aug. 13, 2018, President Donald Trump signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2019, a \$717 billion bill that will greatly enhance the U.S. military but also adds additional benefits for service members and disabled veterans.

One benefit allows “disabled veterans to fly Space-A on military aircrafts,” according to the Department of Defense.

Florida Rep. Gus Bilirakis, also the House Veterans Affairs Committee vice chairman, introduced the legislation, according to Task & Purpose. Bilirakis said, “Disabled veterans who have a service-connected permanent disability rated as 100 percent cannot travel on military flights unless they are military retirees. This bill would authorize veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as 100 percent to travel on Space-A at no additional cost to the Department of Defense and without aircraft modifications.”

Space-A travel would allow “veterans with a permanent and total service-connected Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating to fly on DoD-owned or -controlled aircrafts for free when extra seats are available,” he added.

When filling “space available” seats on a flight,

those on “emergency leave are the top priority, and the lowest priority is retirees and disabled veterans,” Military.com reported.

This benefit is exclusively for the disabled veteran and does not include their families.

In order to be eligible, disabled veterans must have obtained their DD Form 2765 and have a Defense Department ID Card (tan). Disabled veterans can travel on flights in the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa, and they will have a travel priority of Category 6, according to the Defense Department.

Veterans who fly Space-A are permitted to have up to two pieces of baggage that weigh no more than 70 pounds each.

Pets are not permitted on Space-A unless they are registered Emotional Support Animals, and the veteran who is flying has obtained the proper paperwork in order to fly to the specified destination.

The Space-A program is run by the Air Mobility Command and offers the benefit of being able to register for flights via email, although this does not guarantee a seat. In addition, they have a Facebook page available to look over upcoming flights and availability.

It is important to note that Space-A flights are only permitted when space is available, so they are not always timely and can require some flexibility.

## VA Fiduciary Program New Regulations Implemented

VA Press Release | September 12, 2018

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently updated regulations related to how it governs the oversight of beneficiaries, who, because of injury, disease, or age, are unable to manage their VA benefits, and the appointment and oversight of fiduciaries for these vulnerable beneficiaries.

Managed by VA’s Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), the new regulations, which took effect in August, update and reorganize fiduciary rules consistent with current law and VA policies, and clarify the rights of beneficiaries and the roles of VA and fiduciaries in the program.

“These new regulations clarify the protections in place for Veterans and family members who

apply for or are currently part of our fiduciary care program,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “This furthers our commitment to care for those who have given so much to our country.”

Among other things, the new regulations clarify beneficiaries’ rights, including the right to appeal fiduciary appointments and other fiduciary decisions, the 4 percent limit on fiduciary fees, and the procedures to remove a fiduciary, for instance, when a beneficiary demonstrates the ability to manage their own funds or when VA determines that the fiduciary misused VA benefits. This is the first full revision of the Fiduciary Activities regulations since they were first published in 1975.

# Law gives vet small business owners free surplus federal equipment

By: Sen. Tammy Duckworth, 1 Feb 19

<https://rebootcamp.militarytimes.com/news/entrepreneurship/2019/02/01/this-new-law-gives-vet-small-business-owners-surplus-federal-equipment-for-free>

Editor's note: The following commentary was contributed by U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill. The content may be edited for clarity, style and length.

Scattered in warehouses throughout the country are the kinds of federal resources that can help make small businesses thrive — laptops and office furniture, construction equipment and farm tools that have been gathering dust, unused and unseen, year after year.

Meanwhile, thousands of American service members are returning home from war, taking off their uniform then taking a chance: trying to scrounge up enough resources to start their own small businesses, all too often struggling to stay in the black if and when they get off the ground. As of a few weeks ago, they no longer do.

After both branches of Congress overwhelmingly voted for its passage in December, my Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act became law earlier this month, allowing veteran small business owners to acquire those pieces of equipment and personal property that the federal government no longer has any use for, effectively free of charge.

Now that farmer in southern Illinois might not have to stay up at night, worried about how he'll possibly be able to pay for that generator.

Now that veteran who returned from war and went back to school can get the computers she needs to open the doors to her very own practice.

And now American taxpayers will no longer have to foot the bill to store all those resources that belong in office buildings and cornfields.

A win-win, by anyone's estimation.

There's a reason veterans are twice as likely to start or lead their own companies as civilians, with roughly 10 percent of small businesses across the country run by those who've served, including 80,700 in Illinois alone.

It's because no matter where they were deployed, no matter which branch they call their own, those who've worn the uniform have a kind of courage instilled in them that's impossible to root out — the type of resilience and determination that can turn a longshot idea into a smooth-running, profit-making business.

Yet thanks to a number of factors, the number of veterans leading their own companies is plummeting as compared to generations past. While a staggering 49.7 percent of World War II veterans went on to run or own businesses, followed by 40 percent of Korean War veterans, just 4.5 percent of those who served after Sept. 11, 2001, had launched their own businesses as of late 2016.

We know that veterans are far more likely to hire other veterans, especially those who are struggling with the wounds of war, both visible and otherwise. So fewer vets at the helm of companies means fewer vets throughout the ranks, too. Fewer learning the ropes of an industry. Fewer climbing the ladder to the top. Fewer who, someday, might start a business of their own.

My hope is that this bill will help change all that, beginning to reverse the trend of entrepreneurship among recent veterans and, in doing so, getting more of our heroes get hired and trained today so they can succeed tomorrow.

These women and men risked their lives for the rest of us overseas. It was way past time for us to pass legislation that looks out for them when they step back onto U.S. soil.

So to all those veterans who own or are looking to start small businesses, this bill is for you. And all you have to do to begin laying claim to those unused items and their untapped potential is [click here](#) to contact your local state agency.

## Wisconsin

Cheryl Edgington, Director  
Wisconsin Division of Federal Property  
101 East Wilson Street  
Madison WI 53703  
Phone: [608-266-1060](tel:608-266-1060)

Nadine Malm, Coordinator  
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Madison WI 53703  
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Fax: [608-267-0600](tel:608-267-0600)

# Military women report they are being denied access to birth control

Caitlin Foster Jan. 18, 2019, [https://www.businessinsider.com/study-military-deployment-birth-control-2018-12?utm\\_content=bufferbc04f&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer-bi](https://www.businessinsider.com/study-military-deployment-birth-control-2018-12?utm_content=bufferbc04f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer-bi)

Military leaders say that General Order 1, which limits alcohol consumption and cohabitation for troops deployed to war zones, reinforces good order and discipline. Advocates and troops say it's an antiquated "ban on sex" — and may in reality be harming women's health.

Women troops said in some cases that their doctors cited this controversial order to deny them access to birth control while deployed, a fact that was revealed in a survey conducted by the Service Women's Action Network advocacy group.

In their survey of nearly 800 women serving or who have served in the US military, SWAN found that 26% of active-duty women do not have access to birth control while deployed. That number jumps even higher for other communities: 41% of women veterans reported limited access during their time in uniform.

While several reasons were provided to account for these numbers, including the inability to refill prescriptions far enough in advance, advocates were shocked to find that a limitation on sexual activity would be used to deny access to birth control.

"Isn't that ridiculous," Ellen Haring, chief executive of SWAN, told Business Insider. "It astounds me that people would be denied for that reason."

It's astounding, Haring said, because birth control is not just used as a contraceptive. One of the survey's respondents said she was dismayed when she could not get enough refills to last through her deployments because she primarily used birth control to regulate, and even skip, her menstrual cycle.

Along with safely skipping a period, Planned Parenthood lists a range of medical benefits to using birth control — from reduction of acne to prevention of endometrial or ovarian cancers.

These benefits are not being ignored by the Department of Defense, which said it would be a violation of service members' privacy if their commander denied them access to birth control.

"Birth control ... is not just indicated for pregnancy prevention, it is also indicated for menstrual regulation, including menstrual suppression," Jessica Maxwell, spokeswoman for the Defense Department, said in an emailed statement to Business Insider.

It would be a privacy violation for a commander to deny birth control, Maxwell wrote, because taking birth control would not limit a woman's ability to perform her duties. But she could not publicly comment whether a doctor's refusal to prescribe the medication would trigger a violation of any military regulation or whether the Pentagon was investigating any reports of this occurring.

Her statement emphasized that emergency contraception, which can be obtained over-the-counter, is readily available even for service members in deployed locations.

But emergency contraceptives are singular in their purpose; these remedies do not satisfy the host of alternate uses filled by prescription birth control.



First they came for the journalists.

We don't know  
what happened  
after that.





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**PO Box 18631**  
**Milwaukee, WI 53218**



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## Sign Up Now With Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 324

Anyone can join! Membership Options:

**Life Membership for all veterans \$50:**

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Anyone Else:

- Associate Member - 1 year \$20 • Associate Member 3 year \$50 • Associate Life Member \$250
- Associate Life Member Installment Plan (\$50 Deposit; \$25 per month for 8 Months)

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help Chapter 324 by donating \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to VVA324 and mail with this completed application to:  
 VVA Chapter 324 - Membership, PO Box 18631, Milwaukee, WI 53218