



The Veteran's Voice
Newsletter
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Edition

THE VETERANS VOICE

508 Elm Street Biddeford, Maine 04005

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Army Will Now Award the Purple Heart for a Perforated Eardrum

Jim Absher is a Military.com benefits columnist

An update to Army regulations makes active-duty members and veterans who suffer a perforated eardrum during combat service entitled to the Purple Heart. Previously, a perforated eardrum was not a qualifying injury for the military's oldest award, which is given to those who suffer a combat-related injury in service to their nation.

The Army Human Resources Command (HRC) made the announcement in a Facebook post Tuesday. That same post outlined some of the requirements that must be met to qualify for the award and the process members should take to apply for the medal.

The official regulations, contained in MILPER 22-215, states that service members and veterans who were previously denied the Purple Heart for a perforated eardrum must submit a new request for the award. Going forward, any soldier suffering a perforated eardrum in qualifying service will be eligible for the Purple Heart without having to request it through their command.

Currently, those seeking a retroactive award or a reconsideration of a previous denial for the award must apply for consideration.

Required documentation that a service member or veteran must provide with their application includes:

1. DA Form 4187 (for currently serving members) or written request (for veterans).
2. Chain of command endorsement (through the first general officer in the soldier's current chain of command for currently serving members).
3. Deployment orders.
4. DA Form 4037 (officer record brief), enlisted record brief, DA Form 20/2-1/66 (personal qualification record) or other substantiating personnel qualifications records for veterans.
5. One-page narrative describing the qualifying incident and the conditions under which the member was injured or wounded,
6. Statements from at least two individuals, other than the proposed recipient, who were personally present, observed the incident, and have direct knowledge of the event. Alternatively, other official documentation may be used to corroborate the narrative.

7. Casualty report (if available)
8. SF 600 (chronological record of medical care), SF form 502 (clinical records) or equivalent military medical document.
9. DD Form 214, WD Form AGO 53-55 or WD Form AGO 53-98 (official certificate of release or discharge from active duty) (if applicable).
10. Morning, unit and/ or situation reports.

According to the Army, commanders will consider the degree to which the enemy or hostile force caused the wound, and whether the wound was so severe that it required treatment by a medical officer in determining eligibility to the Purple Heart award.

Soldiers currently serving in the active Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard must resubmit through their company commander (or equivalent). The individual soldier is responsible for gathering information and submitting the request.

Requests should be submitted to S1 or U>S> Army Human Resources Command: Commander. USAHRC, ATTTN: Awards and Decorations Branch (AHRC-PDP-A, 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40121-5408 or by email at usarmy.knox.hre.mbx.tagd-awards@army.mil

The MILPER states that anyone with questions regarding the new regulations should contact the Awards and Decorations Branch, AHRC-PDP-A, 502-613-9126, (DSN) 983-9126, or by e-mail at usarmy.knox.hre.mbx.tagd-awards@army.mil

Recipients of the Purple Heart receive many special federal and state benefits, including special employment considerations, monetary benefits and more.



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President's Corner

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

Vietnam Veterans Day is a day of remembrance that is here to stay! It is a dual system on 29 and 30 March utilizing the Gregorian calendar.

In Vietnam it was on 29 March 1973 and in the United States it was 30 March 1973 ... that is the reason for the discrepancy last year in regard to the date.

On March 30th of 2016 in the United States it will be March 29th in Vietnam. In other words, whatever day you choose is fine with everyone, as long as you make an effort to welcome Home one of our Vietnam Brothers and Sisters

Because this very special day falls our chapter in cooperation with the American Legion Post 26 will honor our Vietnam Veterans on Saturday 29 March 2025.

Please see our attached flyer and I ask that you please consider making a copy and sending it out to EVERYONE on your contact lists. Not only Vietnam veterans but veterans from all era's and civilians as well this showing is open to the public.

On this day we will be showing a very special documentary entitled **The Story of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial "The Last Landing Zone."**

Ever since the design of the Vietnam Veterans memorial in Washington, D.C., by Maya Ying Lin was unveiled, there's been both controversy and acclaim. However, the perpendicular walls of black granite had proved to be the most emotionally commanding of all American war memorials.

This video discusses the turmoil engendered by the war itself and how the memorial has helped veterans and citizens comes to grips with their loss. The video also has footage of the dedication of the Vietnam Women's memorial and is narrated by former Pittsburgh Steeler running back Rocky Bleier.

Respectfully
Joseph Armstrong
President

***From the Desk
Of
Conrad Letellier
1stst Vice-President***

Hello Brothers & Sisters

March 29 of each year is set aside a day to honor our brother & sister Vietnam veterans. But many do not know why this particular date was chosen. Here is why.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF VIETNAM VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY?

Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day is a day set aside to honor and recognize the service And sacrifices of those who served in the Vietnam War. In the U.S. National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed annually on March 29.

This date was chosen because it marks the day in 1973 when the last U.S. Combat troops left Vietnam and when the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam were released. The day serves as an opportunity to express gratitude to Vietnam veterans, many of whom did not receive a warm welcome upon their return home due to the political and social climate of the time.

It is a time for ceremonies, parades, and other forms of recognition to show appreciation for their courage, service, and sacrifice.

**Respectfully
Conrad Letellier
1st vice-president**

Membership Corner

By
Conrad Letellier Membership Chairman

Conrad Letellier
Membership Chairman

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Conrad Letellier

The Togus Regional Office is focused on ensuring every Veteran and survivor in Maine is receiving the benefits they have earned. If you are a Veteran or survivor not currently receiving benefits, please contact us at 207-621-6938 or work with one of the five Veterans Service Organizations located on the Togus Campus – American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Maine Veterans' Services, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. If you are a family member, neighbor, friend, coworker or otherwise know a Veteran or survivor who may not be receiving benefits, please help us spread the word.

Dependency

General Information: You may be eligible for additional disability compensation for a qualified spouse, child, and/or parent if you meet both of these requirements.

Both of these must be true: You're eligible for VA disability compensation, and you have a combined disability rating of at least 30%. Adding a dependent may make you eligible to receive a higher compensation payment (also called a benefit rate). There are several ways for you to add or remove a new dependent or update your marital status.

While all methods will achieve the same result, Stop by and talk with your local post service officer about your needs and or concerns.

Conrad Letellier
Service Officer

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1044 Maine

Launches FREE COFFEE FOR VETERANS WEDNESDAYS

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1044 is located at 508 Elm Street Biddeford, Maine (basement of the American Legion Post 26). Our founding principle is "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another".

Meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month. Meetings start at 1:30 pm (13:30).

To honor and appreciate our veterans, we're offering **FREE COFFEE EVERY WEDNESDAY** to all veterans!

Whether you served in the past or are currently serving, this is our small way of saying thank you for your service and dedication.

WHEN: Every Wednesday from 09:00 – 11:00 hrs.

WHERE: Vietnam Veterans of America
508 Elm Street Biddeford, Maine (Downstairs American Legion Post 26)

WHO: All veterans are welcome

Simply show your military ID or wear something that identifies your service, and your coffee is on us!

Help us spread the word and bring a fellow veteran along for a cup of gratitude. We look forward to serving you!

We offer to the veterans a place to sit and enjoy a cup of fresh coffee and a pastry or donut, read a book or magazine or just talk with fellow veterans. We also have several tables set up with board games such as chess, checkers.

A veteran's service officer will be available to answer any questions on veterans' benefits or to help file a claim for disability thru the VA system. This service is available to spouses of veterans as well.

Also available will be a veterans assistance officer to help those veterans and or families in need of assistance with heating fuel or other issues.

We will add additional days that we will be open as the demand increases

For more information contact our chapter president Joseph Armstrong at (207) 494 – 9287 or visit us at <http://www.vva1044maine.org>

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POW MIA INFORMATION

Conrad Letellier

Conrad Lettelier

**From The Desk of the Events Coordinator
Jim Davis**



**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY 06 April 2025.
MEETING WILL START AT 1:30 PM 13:30 HRS.
THERE WILL BE NO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING PRIOR
TO OUR REGULAR MEETING. BOD MEETING WILL START
AT 12:00 NOON.**

Membership in VVA is the Right Choice

First I want to say "WELCOME HOME "

The goals of Vietnam Veterans of America are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans. To create a new identity for this generation of veterans and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans.

VVA is a "home of our own" - a community of fellowship with people who share our experiences, needs, and hopes for the future.

Be as active as your time, talents, and interests allow. Or, simply be a proud member of VVA, knowing that your membership helps VVA work for you and your fellow Vietnam veterans.

Membership includes a subscription to our award-winning newspaper, The VVA Veteran, bringing you updates on issues and legislation affecting veterans, as well as unique articles on the people, places, and history of the Vietnam experience.

Membership is open to U.S. armed force veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, OR in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

Our chapter is working very hard to help our brothers and sisters, their families and veterans of today.

We meet once a month at the American Legion Post 26 located at 508 Elm Street Biddeford. Meetings start at 1:30 (13:30)

If you would like further information on joining our chapter please email me your mailing address at **cwomaine@metrocast.net** I will send the information to you.