



The FireFighter

Gung-Ho Means Work Together!

Iredell County MCL Detachment 1097 December 2017 Edition

December 16- Detachment Meeting – 1800 - Troutman American Legion

Detachment website: <http://www.iredellmcl.org>

Once a Marine always a Marine

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"We served our Country.....Now we serve our Community"



Marines,

Please notice that we have changed the dates for the Detachment Monthly meetings for December to the 16th of December at 1800.

November was a very busy month for the Detachment. We participated in the Mooresville Veteran's week ceremonies to include being in the Veteran's Day Parade. Some Detachment Marines attended Veteran's Day JROTC ceremonies at Statesville and West Iredell High School. Two Marines attended the South Iredell High School JROTC (SIHS) Birthday Ball.

I hope each of you had a very Happy and Thankful Thanksgiving Holiday.

The Detachment delivered the annual Toys for Tots boxes to their designated collection points and will be picking up toys through December 15th. If you would like to volunteer to help with this important project, please contact Vivian, Luca or myself.

Our Detachment's Annual Christmas Party will be on December 16 at 1800 at the Troutman American Legion. Based on the number of registered attendees, we are going to have a very good attendance. As always, dinner will be served at the expense of the Detachment. I hope to see you there. **Please note the date and time change. Additionally, if you have not advised Luca or myself if you are attending and how many, please do very soon. The uniform will be casual dress and covers are not required. We will not be having a meeting on the 4th Thursday due to the Christmas party.**

If I don't see you before Christmas, I wish you and family a very Merry and Safe Christmas.

Semper Fi,
Dick Camery, Commandant



DATE **MEETING/LOCATION/TIME**

Dec 16	Detachment Christmas Party – 1800 – Troutman American Legion
Jan 15	Iredell County Veteran’s Council Meeting – American Legion Post 66, Mooresville – 1830
Jan 25	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion - 1900
Feb 19	Iredell County Veteran’s Council Meeting – American Legion Post 401, Troutman – 1830
Feb 22	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion - 1900
Mar 3	MCL Iredell County Annual Iredell County JROTC Drill Competition – South Iredell High School – 0900 - 1300
Mar 19	Iredell County Veteran’s Council Meeting – American Legion Post 65, Statesville – 1830
Mar 22	Detachment Meeting – Troutman American Legion - 1900



Don’t forget to pray for our sick, shut-ins, Marines and their Families.

- Stan Thompson
- Buddy Hemric and wife Sheila
- Buddy Hemric’s Mother
- B.J. Thomas and wife, Sandy
- Jackie Vanderzanden – Steve’s wife
- Joe Valone
- Winkie Powell – Glyn’s wife
- Pete Meletis
- Dennis Clary
- Pete Blinn
- Ray Lanier
- Ovella Turner, Frank’s wife
- Larry Lackey

2018 COLA Increase

Disabled veterans, military retirees and Social Security recipients will see a 2% pay raise in 2018. The pay raise represents the largest increase in Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) since 2012. The first increased payment will show up in the December 2017 pay check.

VETERANS SCAMS

Military Family/VA/Medicare Records Update:

The scammers are contacting veterans claiming to be from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and claim to be reaching out to veterans to update their records with the VA.

The scammers claim it is a new policy of the VA to reach out to veterans via telephone, thus, making the VA a more user-friendly organization.

The goal of the scam is to get a veterans' social security number.

Trading Cash for Benefits Scam:

Another active scam involves scammers attempting to convince veterans to trade their VA benefits for fast cash, often at a fraction of the value of the true VA benefits' value. VA officials have stated in no uncertain terms that such a deal is always bad for the veteran and must be avoided in any form. Any veteran or military family receiving such an offer should report the offer to Operation Protect Veterans by calling [855-800-9023](tel:855-800-9023) to verify legitimacy and help prevent the growth of this scam.

Hurricane Harvey Scam:

The newest "hot scam" preys on the benevolent nature of veterans and military families by asking them to donate money to the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

To avoid such scams, never donate by e-mail, send cash electronically or send funds to an organization name with which you are not familiar. AARP has set up a hotline to help veterans with these scam artists. Any veteran involved in any kind of suspected scam is invited to report it at [877-908-3360](tel:877-908-3360). Also, before sending funds check with Better Business Bureau (<http://www.give.org/charity-reviews/national>) or Charity Navigator (<https://www.charitynavigator.org>) to verify legitimacy of organization

AFTER 18 MONTHS OF STUDY, VA DELAYS ADDING NEW AGENT ORANGE ILLNESSES

After 18 months of review by his department, VA Secretary David J. Shulkin awkwardly announced Wednesday that he plans to “further explore” adding ailments to the list of compensable conditions VA presumes were caused by exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides used during the Vietnam War.

The decision to punt long-anticipated decisions on Agent Orange-related ailments will disappoint thousands of aging veterans with bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinson-like tremors and hypertension (high blood pressure).

Veterans and survivors were hopeful some or all of those conditions would be added to VA’s presumptive list of ailments linked to wartime herbicides, based on the latest and final review of medical and scientific literature on Agent Orange from the National Academy of Medicine (formerly known as the Institute of Medicine).

Instead, on the Nov. 1 deadline date that VA itself had set for this packet of decisions, Shulkin issued a brief statement at 6 p.m. promising only more delay

“After thoroughly reviewing the National Academy of Medicine (NAM)’s latest report regarding veterans and Agent Orange, and associated data and recommendations from [VA’s] NAM Task Force, I have made a decision to further explore new presumptive conditions for service connection that may ultimately qualify for disability compensation. I appreciate NAM’s work and the commitment and expertise of [my] Task Force, and look forward to working with the [Trump] administration on the next steps in the process.”

A last sentence, not attributed to Shulkin, explained that the VA “will begin work with the administration to concurrently conduct a legal and regulatory review of these potential presumptive conditions for awarding disability compensation to eligible veterans.

A spokesman for Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tenn.), chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, said he is reviewing VA’s announcement. But Roe “believes veterans waiting for a final decision deserve certainty, and [he] hopes Secretary Shulkin will work quickly to finish the legal and regulatory reviews.”

NAM delivered its report, *Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2014*, to VA in March last year, after reviewing medical and scientific literature published from Oct. 1, 2012, through Sept. 30, 2014. NAM found evidence to support changing the strength of association between herbicide exposure and several ailments.

For bladder cancer and hypothyroidism, it found “limited or suggestive” evidence of an association to herbicide exposure, an upgrade from “inadequate or insufficient” evidence found earlier. For some ailments, including Parkinson’s and ischemic heart disease, limited or suggestive evidence has been judged strong enough to add the illnesses to the presumptive list. For other diseases, including hypertension, which is common in an aging population, it hasn’t been enough.

The NAM review also looked again at cardiovascular conditions and herbicide exposure. It didn’t upgrade the link to heart ailments but it did affirm limited or suggestive evidence that hypertension is linked to herbicide exposure.

It also studied whether conditions with Parkinson’s-like symptoms should fall into the same limited or suggestive category as Parkinson’s disease itself. NAM found “no rational basis” for excluding Parkinson-like symptoms from the same risk category. Parkinson’s disease was added to VA’s presumptive list in 2010. By late summer this year, Shulkin promised a decision on new ailments to the presumptive list by Nov. 1. Weidman said he suspects the White House’s Office of Management and Budget blocked any plan to add new ailments to the list.

Weidman said members of Vietnam Veterans of America “are going to be really angry” with more delay, because “there is probably enough evidence now for the Secretary to declare other ailments” as tied to Agent Orange exposure, “glioblastoma first among them.” And sailors and Marines who served aboard ship off Vietnam, the Blue Water Veterans, should have been deemed eligible like ground forces for compensation for presumptive ailments long ago, Weidman said.

“The ball is now in Trump’s court,” he added. “It’s not something now that Obama did or did not do.”

SPREAD ONLY GOOD CHEER – GET YOUR FLU VACCINATION

Flu season arrives with the cold weather. As we get ready for the holidays, when you'll be surrounded by family and friends, it's a good time to get a flu vaccination. The flu is caused by viruses (germs). You can become infected when you inhale these germs directly. You can also become infected when you touch a surface on which the droplets containing germs have landed and then transfer the germs to your eyes, nose, or mouth.

What's important to remember is that anyone can get the flu. But you are more likely to become infected if:

- Have a weakened immune system
- Have frequent, close contact with young children
- Work in a health care setting where you may be exposed to flu germs
- Live or work with someone who has the flu
- Haven't received an annual flu shot

Viruses that cause the flu change from year to year. For that reason, health care providers recommend getting the flu vaccine each fall or winter.

Vaccination is the surest way to protect against getting the flu. Get your flu shot every year to protect yourself and help keep the flu from spreading to others. Go to the VA Public Health's Vaccination page to learn all about the flu vaccination. Also, remember to add your flu vaccination into your Personal Health Record in Track History.

Help reduce the spread of flu by:

- Getting a flu shot
- Keeping your hands clean
- Covering your coughs and sneezes
- Staying home when sick

HOME DEPOT BENEFITS STATEMENT UPDATE

Effective March 1st, 2010 we will offer, when asked, a 10% discount, up to a \$500 maximum, to all active, reserve, retired or disabled veterans and their family members with a valid military ID. All other military veterans will qualify for a 10% discount during normal holiday events (e.g., Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Independence Day).

This philosophy is consistent with our long standing price match guarantee. Please note that The Home Depot will offer a 10% Military discount up to \$500.00 maximum. The Military discount cannot be combined with any other promotions.

Within our stores we are only accepting the identification listed below:

- Active Duty Military ID card with a picture (green background)
- A retired Military ID card with a picture (blue background)
- VA Card (Department of Veterans Affairs) - Must have the words Service Connected under picture. We will not accept any other VA Cards.
- Active Military and Retired Military ID card for spouse/dependants (yellow/beige background)

