



## Eastern Essex District Department of Veterans' Services

Newsletter July 2021, Issue 4

### Inside this Issue

- **Upcoming Events**
- **Upcoming Holidays**
- **July Veteran Appreciation Meals**
- **Burn Pits Registry**
- **Eastern Essex Office Hours in each town**

### Links To Article Websites

- **Burn Pit Registry**

### Contact Information

Located in Ipswich Town Hall  
25 Green Street, Ipswich, MA 01938

Phone: (978) 356-6699

Fax: (978) 356-6615

Karen Tyler, District Director

Email: [ktyler@eessexvets.com](mailto:ktyler@eessexvets.com)

Kathy Collins, Assistant to Director

Email: [kcollins@eessexvets.com](mailto:kcollins@eessexvets.com)

---

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Vietnam Moving Wall- Town of Nahant  
Nahant Lowlands Activity Field  
July 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

Veterans Kayak- Lowell Vet Center  
Ipswich Watershed  
August 15, 2021

Benefits Presentation- Karen Tyler  
Byfield Art Center  
September 1, 2021 at 10:00 am

Vietnam Moving Wall- Dennis Palazzo  
September 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

---

### UPCOMING HOLIDAYS:

August 7<sup>th</sup>- Purple Heart Day

September 17<sup>th</sup>- POW/MIA Day

September 30<sup>th</sup>- Gold Star Mother's Day



## EASTERN ESSEX VETERAN SERVICES TO HOST MEAL DELIVERY FOR THOSE WITH A HISTORY OF MILITARY SERVICE

**Those who have served in the military were treated to a free meal, for themselves and their families, in observance of Independence Day courtesy of Eastern Essex Veterans Services. The event took place on Saturday, July 3rd, 2021.**

The Eastern Essex Veterans Services served vegetable primavera with chicken, plus a side salad and dessert. "On Independence Day, we as a community show our gratitude for all our men and women who took an oath to defend our freedom," said Karen Tyler, Director of Veterans Services for the Eastern Essex District. Tyler, who served in the United States Army, felt this meal delivery is an excellent way for the community to come together and show their appreciation while also serving a delicious meal.

The Newburyport Bank graciously sponsored this event. There were volunteers who prepared the meals, pack them up, and delivered them to Veterans. "Events and tributes like this are never possible without the support from the community and local businesses. Our office is always extremely grateful for all of those who support our men and women who have worn the cloth of our Nation," adds Karen Tyler.

There were 50 meals distributed to Veterans and their families. In addition, there were meals delivered to Georgetown, Newbury, and Rowley Police stations to show appreciation and support for all they do for the community.

## BURN PITS INFORMATION

The Department of Veterans Affairs is reviewing the correlation between particulate matter pollution in developing chronic respiratory conditions, which may include asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis for those who served in Southwest Asia theater of operations during Persian Gulf War or in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during Persian Gulf War.

While on active duty some of the “Airborne Hazards”, toxic substances that service members were potentially exposed to through the air we breathe. For example:

- Smoke and fumes from open burn pits
- Sand dust particulate matter
- General air pollution that’s common in some countries
- Smoke from oil well fires
- Mechanical fumes

All Veterans who served in these types of conditions should contact the VA Airborne Hazards and Open Pit Registry.

### What are burn pits?

The Department of Defense defines an open burn pit as an area of land used for the open-air combustion of trash and other solid waste products. They were commonly used by the U.S. military in Southwest Asia, Afghanistan, and other areas. Waste products commonly disposed of in open burn pits include chemicals, paint, medical and human waste, metal/aluminum cans, munitions, unexploded ordnance, petroleum and lubricant products, plastics, rubber, wood, and food waste.

### What is the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry?

VA established the registry in 2014 to put data to work for Veterans and help us better understand the potential health effects of exposure to airborne hazards during military service. By joining the registry, you can provide information that supports ongoing research and helps VA provide better care to all Veterans. Joining the registry can also help you identify health concerns, discuss them with your health care providers, and get follow-up care.

### Who is eligible for the registry?

If you were deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations any time after August 2, 1990 or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001, you are eligible to participate.

You can join even if:

- You don’t think you were exposed to specific airborne hazards.
- You are not experiencing symptoms or illnesses you think are related to your exposures.
- You have not filed a VA claim for compensation

Massachusetts	Environmental Health Coordinators
<b>Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital</b> 200 Springs Rd. Bedford, MA 01730	Natalya Turova (781) 687-2344 Natalya.Turova@va.gov
<b>VA Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System</b> 421 North Main Street Leeds, MA 01053	Brenda Wolf 413-584-4040 x2995 Brenda.Wolf2@va.gov
<b>VA Boston Healthcare System Jamaica Plain Campus</b> 150 S. Huntington Avenue Boston, MA 02130	William Bell (857) 364-5569 William.Bell5@va.gov





### **Eastern Essex Veteran Services Office hours and Location**

Ipswich- Town Hall  
25 Green St (Bottom Floor)  
Ipswich, MA 01938  
Mon 8:00-7pm, Tues-Thurs 8:00-4pm, Fri 8:00-noon

Essex- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 12:30-1:30  
Council of Aging  
17 Pickering St  
Essex, MA 01929

Georgetown- By appointment only  
Council of Aging  
51 North St  
Georgetown, MA 01833

Newbury- By appointment  
Newbury Town Hall  
12 Kent Way (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hearing Room)  
Newbury, MA 01951

Rowley- By appointment  
Council of Aging  
39 Central St  
Rowley, MA 01969

West Newbury- By appointment  
Council of Aging  
381 Main St  
West Newbury, MA 01985

*(Dates and locations are subject to change)*

**Home Visits are available by  
appointment- call (978)356-6699**

and benefits or applied for VA health care.

- You are still an active duty service member, reservist, or have returned to active service.

If you are not eligible for the registry but are concerned about your exposures, you can still apply for VA health care and file a claim for compensation and benefits.

### **MANY VETERANS WHO DEPLOYED AFTER 1990 CAN JOIN THE REGISTRY.**

VA will determine eligibility for the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry based on deployment information from the Department of Defense (DoD).

To be eligible, you must be a Veteran or Service member who deployed to contingency operations in the Southwest Asia theater of operations at any time on or after August 2, 1990 (as defined in 38 CFR 3.317(e) (2)), or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001.

These regions include the following countries, bodies of water, and the airspace above these locations:

- » Iraq
- » Afghanistan
- » Kuwait
- » Saudi Arabia
- » Bahrain
- » Djibouti
- » Gulf of Aden
- » Gulf of Oman
- » Oman
- » Qatar
- » United Arab Emirates
- » Waters of the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, and Red Sea

### **EASTERN ESSEX TOWN LOCATION AND OFFICE HOURS:**

Eastern Essex Veteran Services serves six towns:

Essex, Georgetown, Ipswich, Newbury, Rowley, and West Newbury