



Eastern Essex District Department of Veterans' Services

Newsletter March 2022, Issue 5

Message from the District Director Karen Tyler

Through these challenging times, it has afforded 2 gentlemen to step up, take charge, and make a difference.

A Triton High School Student, Douglas Aylward, wanted to make a difference for Homeless Veterans. He set up a sock drive and it was hugely successful. He collected 1,324 pairs of socks and over 40 toiletries. We donated them to Veterans Northeast Outreach Center in Haverhill.

Jacob Greenberg, Air National Guard, brought in over 50 boxes of shampoo body wash, each box containing 100 individual packets. We donated these items to Operation Troop Support in Danvers. Operation Troop Support will be sending these items in care packages to deployed troops.

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Contact Information

**Located in
Ipswich Town Hall
(Bottom Level)
25 Green Street, Ipswich, MA 01938**

**Phone: (978) 356-6699
Fax: (978) 356-6615**

**Karen Tyler, District Director
Email: ktyler@eessexvets.com**

**Karen Bell, Assistant to Director
Email: kbell@eessexvets.com**

We Provide Services to six Towns:

- Essex
- Georgetown
- Ipswich
- Newbury
- Rowley
- West Newbury

Eastern Essex Veteran Services is going to be having office hours at the following locations on the monthly basis:

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

Georgetown- 1st Thursday 10:30-11:30
Council of Aging
51 North St
Georgetown, MA 01833

Newbury- 2nd Thursday 11:30-12:30
Newbury Town Hall
(2nd Floor Hearing Room)
12 Kent Way
Byfield, MA 01922

Rowley- 1st Monday 1:00-2:00
Council of Aging
39 Central St
Rowley, MA 01969

West Newbury- 2nd Thursday 10:00 – 11:00
Council of Aging
381 Main St
West Newbury, MA 01985

In addition, we are able to do home visits for your convenience. Please call (978)356-6699 to make an appointment.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Wall that Heals
Nahant

Benefits Presentation- Karen Tyler
Byfield Art Center

Veterans Kayak



Karen Tyler and Karen Bell



Veteran Dennis from Georgetown



EASTERN ESSEX VETERAN SERVICES DELIVERED HOLIDAY MEALS AND STOCKINGS

The Eastern Essex Veterans Services was able to spread holiday cheer to 25 veterans in Ipswich, Essex, Rowley, Georgetown, Newbury and West Newbury. Thank you to the Amvets post 147 and Haverhill VFW for their generous donation.

EASTERN ESSEX VETERAN SERVICES WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Karen Bell began at Eastern Essex Veterans Services in December as the Assistant to the Director. Karen lives in Essex with her husband and three sons. She loves, hikes, flowers and runs an Adaptive Lacrosse Program for athletes with developmental and physical disabilities.

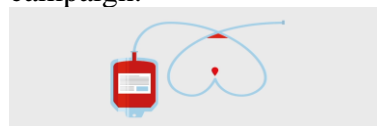
Karen has many veterans and active duty family members. She is looking forward to working with and supporting veterans.

Welcome Karen!

VA ASKING FOR BLOOD DONATIONS

The VA is teaming up with the American Red Cross in a campaign called “Roll Up Your Sleeves 2022”. The initiative is in response to the ongoing national shortage of blood.

To find a blood donation near your community visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org). Mention the “Roll Up Your Sleeves 2022” at the blood collection center and your donation will be linked to the VA national campaign.



Massachusetts		Environmental Health Coordinators	<p>VA considering adding respiratory conditions to those who served in Southwest Asia, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Uzbekistan during the covered periods of conflict</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <p>All Veterans who served in these types of conditions should contact the VA Airborne Hazards and Open Pit Registry.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital 200 Springs Rd. Bedford, MA 01730		Natalya Turova (781) 687-2344 Natalya.Turova@va.gov	
VA Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System 421 North Main Street Leeds, MA 01053		Brenda Wolf 413-584-4040 x2995 Brenda.Wolf2@va.gov	
VA Boston Healthcare System Jamaica Plain Campus 150 S. Huntington Avenue Boston, MA 02130		William Bell (857) 364-5569 William.Bell5@va.gov	

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 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.

5. 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 Servicemember 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