



Eastern Essex District Department of Veterans' Services

Newsletter September 2022, Issue 6

Inside this Issue

- **The PACT Act**
- **State SPEED Act**
- **Purple Heart Communities**
- **Shout out to our local heroes**

Click on Websites Links below:

- **Video on PACT ACT**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyIRSPU084M

- **Purple Heart Community Trail**

www.purpleheart.org/PurpleHeartTrail

Upcoming Military Observances:

September 11th - Anniversary of 9/11

September 16th - POW/MIA

Recognition Day

September 18th - Air Force Birthday

September 25th - Gold Star Family Day

October 13th - Navy Birthday

October 15th - Global War on Terror

Memorial Bridge dedication Ceremony

November 10th - Marine Corps
Birthday

November 11th - Veterans Day

Follow us on Facebook –

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063636457099

PACT ACT

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veteran's exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances.

The PACT will bring these changes:

-Expands and extends eligibility for VA Health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War and post-911 eras.

-Adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures.

-Adds more presumptive exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation.

A presumptive condition for toxic exposure must connected to your military service.

These cancers are now presumptive:

- Brain cancer
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Glioblastoma
- Head cancer of any type
- Kidney cancer
- Lymphatic cancer of any type

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

Website: www.eessexvets.com

We Provide Services to six Towns:

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

Board of Directors:

Michael Flynn, Representative Essex

Doug Dawes, Selectman Georgetown

Linda Alexson, Selectwoman, Ipswich

Dana Packer, Selectman, Newbury

Robert Snow, Selectman- Chair
Rowley

Ron Ross, Representative West
Newbury

- Lymphoma of any type
- Melanoma
- Neck cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Reproductive cancer of any type
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type

These illnesses are now presumptive:

- Asthma that was diagnosed after service
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Granulomatous disease
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis

Any Veteran who has or had one of the listed cancers at any time during or after separation from military service may be eligible for disability compensation benefits.

Veterans, survivors or dependents who had claims previously denied for any of these respiratory cancers are encouraged to file a supplemental claim for benefits.

Please contact us if you are a Veteran, survivor or dependent who needs to apply for a new claim or applying supplemental claim for assistance.

STATE SPEED ACT SUMMARY

The Governor signed the SPEED Act bill.

Open Burn Pit Registry

- Directs DPH, in consultation with DVS and National Guard, to develop educational materials and an informational pamphlet on the health impacts of open burn pits during overseas deployment and information on the VA's Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit

**Eastern Essex Veteran Services-
Location**

Ipswich- Monday 8:00-7:00
Tues-Thursday 8:00-4:00
Friday 8:00-4:00
Town Hall
25 Green St
Ipswich, MA 01938

Monthly Office hours:

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 can do home visits
for your convenience.
Please call (978)356-6699 to make an
appointment.

Registry to be distributed to healthcare providers, service members, and veterans. And to contact all members of the Armed Forces, National Guard and veterans to register for the VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

- And requires the Adjutant General to request that the periodic health assessment for National Guard members determine whether the member is eligible to participate in the VA's Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and if eligible, the member register for the Registry.

Massachusetts National Guard Family Education Program

- Establishes a Massachusetts National Guard Family Education Program to allow National Guard members to transfer their unused education benefits under the National Guard Education Assistance Program to dependents.

Slot Machines at Veterans' Organizations Commission

- Creates a commission to study slot machines at veteran organizations.

Founding Anniversaries of U.S. Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, and National Guard

- Requires the Governor to set aside the founding date anniversaries of the U.S. Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Massachusetts National Guard.

Medal of Fidelity

- Establishes the Massachusetts Medal of Fidelity to be presented to the next of kin of a service member or veteran who died as a result of service-related post-traumatic stress disorder or a service-connected disease, condition or injury related to exposure to harmful toxin, herbicides, agents or materials.

Deborah Samson Memorial Commission

- Establishes a commission to determine a location for a memorial of Deborah Samson, Massachusetts resident who disguised herself as a man in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.

Funeral and Burial Benefits

- Requires funeral directors and their staffs to provide information on burial and funeral benefits for veterans.

Property Tax exemption

- Prohibits a city or town from requesting further evidence from a disabled veteran in subsequent tax years after a veteran has already received an exemption by the assessor of that town unless the disability rating determined by the VA is reduced.

VA HealthCare Enrollment and ID Card Days:

VA Bedford is on-site twice a month to assist Veterans with enrolling in VA healthcare and requesting VA ID cards. Please bring your DD214.

Gloucester VA Clinic
199 Main Street
Gloucester, MA 01930
1st and 2nd Thursday 9:00-3:00 pm

Haverhill VA Clinic
209 Summer Street
Haverhill, MA 01830
1st and 3rd Friday 9:00-3:00 pm

Lynn VA Clinic
225 Boston Street, Suite 107
Lynn, MA 01904
1st and 3rd Tuesday 9:00-3:00 pm

*Call 781-687-3348 to schedule an appointment**

NEWBURY AND WEST NEWBURY DESIGNATED AS PURPLE HEART COMMUNITIES

History of the Purple Heart

"All soldiers know that the Purple Heart is given to those who are wounded or killed while fighting in the nation's wars. Most also know that those who are injured or die in terrorist attacks are eligible to receive the decoration, too. What most soldiers, and most Americans, do not realize, however, is that the Purple Heart is a unique military award. First, it is the oldest U.S. military decoration; General George Washington awarded the first purple-colored heart-shaped badges to soldiers who fought in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Second, until World War II, the Purple Heart was exclusively an Army decoration and, with rare exceptions, only soldiers received it; the Navy and Marine Corps lacked the authority to award it to sea service personnel. Finally, the Purple Heart is the only decoration awarded without regard to any person's favor or approval; any soldier, sailor, airman or marine who sheds blood in defense of the nation is automatically awarded the Purple Heart. What follows is a history of this unique decoration and some of its soldier recipients." - www.armyhistory.org

Purple Heart Trail

"The purpose of the Purple Heart Trail is to create a symbolic and honorary system of roads, highways, bridges, and other monuments that give tribute to the men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal. The Purple Heart Trail accomplishes this honorary goal by creating a visual reminder to those who use the road system that others have paid a high price for their freedom to travel and live in a free society. Signs placed at various locations annotate those roads and highways where legislation has been passed to designate parts of the national road system as The Purple Heart Trail." - Military Order of the Purple Heart

West Newbury

Pictured left to right: Karen Tyler, VSO, Richard Parker, Select Board, Vice Chair, State Representative, Lenny Mirra, Senator Bruce Tarr, Wendy Reed, Select Board Clerk, David Archibald, Select Board Chair and Bob Janes, Retired Air Force Veteran, West Newbury resident.





Newbury

Pictured left to right: Representative Lenny Mirra, Dana Packard, Select Board/Board of Directors for Veteran Services, Alicia Grecco, Select Board, and Senator Bruce Tarr.



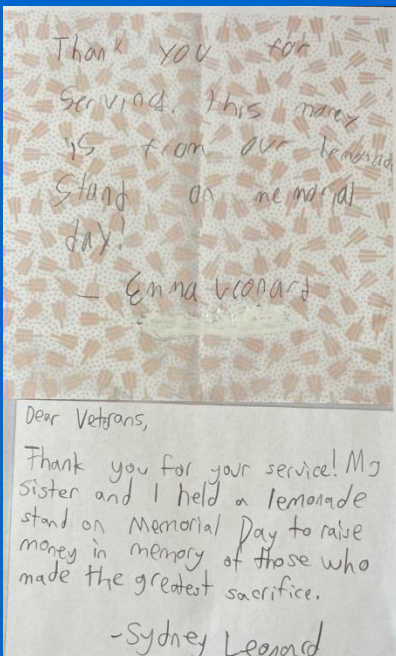
LOCAL HEREOS

Successful sock drive for Homeless Vets

Triton High School Student, Douglas Aylward wanted to make a difference for Homeless Veterans. He set up two sock drives that were hugely successful. He collected a total of 1,867 pairs of socks. We donated them to Veterans Northeast Outreach Center in Haverhill.

Thank you Douglas for your generous time and effort for our Homeless Veterans.

Picture: Douglas Aylward dropping off the sock donations to the office.



Lemonade Stand held for local Veterans

Ipswich residents Sydney and Emma Leonard hosted a lemonade stand on Memorial Day and donated the proceeds to Eastern Essex District of Veteran's Services.

Thank you Sydney and Emma for thinking and caring about our Veterans.

Picture: Note from Sydney and Emma