

LYCOMING COUNTY OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

# THE LYCOMING VET

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1      FEBRUARY 2007



**W**elcome to the first edition of *The Lycoming Vet*, a quarterly newsletter produced by the Lycoming County Veterans Affairs Office. Our purpose is to provide information on issues important to all county veterans and their families.

To contact our office, please turn to page 14 of this newsletter for more information. If you have questions and/or want to apply for benefits, please call our office to make an appointment.

You may also visit our Web site at [www.lyco.org/VA](http://www.lyco.org/VA) for a listing of:

- county, state and federal VA benefits
- Pennsylvania County Veterans Affairs Directors
- local American Legion and VFW posts and other veteran organizations (see also p. 2)
- Lycoming County cemeteries with veterans' graves
- important links to Web sites of interest to the veteran

You will also find current news, historical articles, an events calendar, and a registration form which will enable you to be included in our database of all county veterans.

We encourage you to contact us to submit items or articles for either the Web site or upcoming issues of the newsletter. Also, if you would like us to print an article on a specific topic, please email Joan at [joan.blank@lyco.org](mailto:joan.blank@lyco.org) or call her at 570-320-8157.

Our next issue will be distributed on May 1. You may view the newsletter online at [www.lyco.org/VA](http://www.lyco.org/VA). Copies will also be available at all of the organizations listed on page 2 and at the following Williamsport locations: J.V. Brown Library, the Vet Clinic, the Vet Center and CareerLink.

Most importantly, if our office can assist you in any way, do not hesitate to call us. We are here to help *you*—the veteran of Lycoming County.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Cohick  
Lycoming County Director of Veterans Affairs

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	PAGE
LOCAL VET ORGANIZATIONS	2
A WORD FROM BRUCE FOSTER, SUPERVISOR OF VET. SERVICES	3
FROM THE VA CLINIC . . .	4
FROM THE VET CENTER . . .	4
FROM PA CAREERLINK . . .	4
"FAIRNESS IN DEATH" & ESTATE WORKSHEET	5 6
ID CARD INFO	7
LIBRARY RESOURCE FOR VETS	7
AGENT ORANGE INFO	8
ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES	9
HOW TO APPLY FOR PERSIAN GULF COMPENSATION	9
NEWS FROM THE HOUSE & SENATE COMMITTEES	10
VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT	11
WHO WAS GLENN SHARROW?	12
OUTREACH CALENDAR	13
GEARING UP FOR MEMORIAL DAY	13
<b>How To Contact Us</b>	<b>14</b>



### AMERICAN LEGION POSTS OF LYCOMING COUNTY

#### American Legion Post 1

Garrett Cochran  
10 E. 3rd St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
Phone: 570-322-9409  
Lloyd Brooks, Adjutant

#### American Legion Post 35

Glenn Sharrow  
78 N. Main St.  
Hughesville, PA 17737  
Phone: 570-584-2123

#### American Legion Post 36

George Webster Pepperman  
P.O. Box 211  
Jersey Shore, PA 17740  
Phone: 570-398-4174

#### American Legion Post 104

Eugene Grafius  
1312 Broad St.  
Montoursville, PA 17754  
Phone: 570-368-8234

#### American Legion Post 251

Bower Decker  
185 Broad St.  
Montgomery, PA 17752  
Phone: 570-547-2039

#### American Legion Post 268

Roland Ritter  
515 Legion Rd.  
Muncy, PA 17756  
Phone: 570-546-5210

#### American Legion Post 617

Royal P. Steinbacher  
901 Market Street  
South Williamsport, PA 17702  
Phone: 570-327-0255  
Jim Lusk, Commander  
Gail Eppler, Adjutant & Secretary

### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POSTS OF LYCOMING COUNTY



#### VFW Post 844

Howard W. Kahler Post  
1260 W 3rd St  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
Phone: 570-326-2752

#### VFW Post 3428

Edward J. Smith Post  
12 N Market St  
Muncy, PA 17756  
Phone: 570-546-3820

#### VFW Post 5859

Billy O. Brandt Post  
201 N Lincoln Ave  
Jersey Shore, PA 17740  
Phone: 570-398-2801

#### VFW Post 7863

Le Roy O. Buck Post  
150 Shaffer St  
Williamsport, PA 17702  
Phone: 570-323-9195



Veterans Memorial  
Hughesville, PA



Korean War  
Veterans Memorial  
Williamsport, PA

#### Veterans of the Vietnam War – Post PA 51

P.O. Box 23  
Hughesville, PA 17737  
Web site: [www.vvnw.org/postpa-51](http://www.vvnw.org/postpa-51)  
Commander: Randall Sayman  
Phone: 570-547-2814

#### Korean War Veterans of Lycoming County

P. O. Box 3232  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
Commander Fred Schaefer  
Phone: 570-323-5627

# The County Director of Veterans Affairs



**By Bruce Foster**

*Supervisor of Veteran Services  
Department of Military & Veterans Affairs  
Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA*

I jumped at the chance to contribute to this initial issue of the Lycoming County Veterans' newsletter. Joan Blank contacted me and asked if I would be interested in writing a short article and I agreed right away. So my next big decision became what should I write about? Well, I thought this was a great opportunity to tell veterans and readers about the role the County Director of Veterans' Affairs (CDVA) plays in their county government.

My office works very closely with the CDVA throughout the state. Our office is the conduit through which each County Director, veterans, and family members of their county, to be represented at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. We maintain offices in both the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia VA Regional Offices.

Each county in Pennsylvania is mandated by the County Code to have a CDVA, although the Code is somewhat vague on their responsibilities. The CDVA works under the supervision and at the will of their County Commissioners. After all they do pay their salaries and fund their budgets. So naturally they establish their job descriptions and standards. I can only speak in generality of what you can expect of your CDVA. I would like to say the bottom line is your CDVA is the number one advocate for veterans within their county though that is not true in all cases. They work with whatever veteran support assets are available in their county to promote and aid the needs of veterans. Many counties have Veteran Councils or other similar leaders representing prominent Veteran Service Organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War, Disabled Veterans of America, American Veterans and others who

are active in the county. The CDVA works with the local and regional VA healthcare facilities to advocate required healthcare for their veteran population. These individuals provide advice, counsel and assistance in applying for County, State and Federal Benefits. They assist veterans to understand changes in law, policies and programs. They help coordinate, assist and refer issues to the proper agency or organization to resolve issues for veterans. They take care of any and all veteran issues on the local level. They maintain working relationships with state and federal agencies to ensure their veterans receive the best possible answers to their concerns.

The CDVA plays a vital role in the care of their veteran residents and dependents, and impacts far more social issues in the county than they ever get credit for. Each time a veteran is found to have service connection for a disability issue it eases the responsibility on other medical systems and providers. Each time a veteran or beneficiary is awarded VA Non-service connected Pension lowers the state and local cost of Medicaid and public assistance programs. Compensation not only affects a veterans income, but also brings opportunity for increased educational and rehabilitation programs. A good CDVA can add millions of dollars to the local economy and impacts and improves the quality of life of many veterans and their families.

Do we have CDVA of this caliber in every county? I only wish I could say yes. But I can say I've seen much improvement in the last few years. Many County Commissioners have learned more of the role their CDVA can add and the rewards of hiring a director who wants to be the advocate for which I have spoken.

Now let me say a few words about your CDVA. I've worked with the Lycoming County Veterans Affairs office for about four years now. As such, I feel qualified to say - *"You folks are very lucky to have a great veterans advocate for a County Director of Veteran Affairs."*

Don Cohick is a retired Army First Sergeant. If you think back to your own military service days, (it doesn't matter which branch) you remember the First Sergeant is the guy (or gal) who takes care of the troops and drives mission accomplishment. First Sergeants have a legacy of doing just that. Don has brought that legacy and attitude to Lycoming County. At the upcoming March (15th) County Commissioners meeting, I will have the opportunity to present Don and Joan recognition for being one of the top seven CDVA counties in Pennsylvania for monetary benefits brought to their clients. The pleasure will be all mine.

## LOCAL AGENCIES THAT SERVE THE VET

**The VA Outpatient Clinic** was established July 1997 on the Campus of Divine Providence Hospital in the Wenner Building, 1705 Warren Avenue, Suite 304, Williamsport, PA

**Phone:** 570-322-4791 **Fax:** 570-322-5170 **Open:** Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Scheduled appointments only ~ No Emergency Services/No walk-ins

**Services Include:** Primary Care, Enrollment/Eligibility forms, Psychiatry, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Social Services, Counseling, Lab, Nutrition services, and Immunizations.

### HELPFUL VETERANS AFFAIRS WEBSITE LINKS:

<http://www.myhealth.va.gov> – to order & track medication and to check status of medication

<http://www1.va.gov/health/> – medical center and clinic locations, benefit info, VA jobs, business opportunities, and burial & memorial information



**Vet Centers** serve veterans and their families by providing a continuum of quality care that adds value for veterans, families, and communities. Care includes professional readjustment counseling, community education, outreach to special populations, the brokering of services with community agencies, and provides a key access link between the veteran and other services in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Williamsport Vet Center, located at 805 Penn Street, Williamsport, PA, provides readjustment counseling and outreach services to all veterans who served in any combat zone. Vet Center's staff understands and appreciates Veterans' war experiences while assisting them and their family members toward a successful post war adjustment in or near their community. Our Vet Center conducts outreach to fourteen counties which includes individual and group readjustment counseling Services is also available for veteran family members for military related issues. Our services are provided at no cost to the veteran or family. Our hours are M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Evening and weekend hours are by appointment only. **NOTE:** The information disclosed in counseling is held in strictest confidence. Every effort is made by staff to ensure clients' privacy rights are not violated. Information obtained in the counseling session *cannot be released to any source unless the veteran gives their written authorization.*

## *Pennsylvania* **CareerLink**

The role of the Veterans Employment Representative at the **Pennsylvania CareerLink - Lycoming County** is to assist Veterans with their employment and training needs. Due to the veteran population in Lycoming County, there are two Veteran Employment Representatives.

- **Mack Duncan Jr.** is the Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) responsible for providing employment assistance to all labor exchange eligible veterans and eligible persons. In addition, Mack encourages employers throughout the community to employ eligible veterans and eligible persons. Phone: 570-601-5942
- **Allen Hubler** is the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist responsible for providing employment assistance to all labor exchange eligible veterans and eligible persons with specific emphasis to disabled veterans. In addition, the DVOP conducts outreach activities as needed throughout the community. Some of the employment services provided to veterans are resume preparation assistance, interviewing techniques, use of computers for job searching and labor market information, copying of resumes and cover letters, and, employment or education related faxing, all at no cost. In addition, a job search workshop tailored specifically for veterans is conducted monthly. Phone: 570-601-5934

The PA CareerLink—Lycoming County office is located at 145 West Third Street in Williamsport and is open Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays. Please feel free to contact either of the Veteran Employment Representatives for assistance.

# Fairness In Death by Robin A. Read, Esquire

“How is fairness relevant to death,” you ask?

I am not talking about fairness in the distribution of your assets. You all know you should have an updated will wherein you designate your wishes for distribution of your assets, whatever they may be.

No, I am talking about fairness in being prepared to die. No one wants to think about his/her own death. But the old adage—there are no guarantees in life except death and taxes—is true. And none of us know when we will die. Is it fair that your grieving loved ones will have to search your house, barn, garage, shed, office, and/or safety deposit box and to sort through your personal papers to determine all of your assets, debts and relevant documents necessary to administer your estate? We lawyers help with the administration of estates, and, to the best of our ability, help ease the difficult process. However, it is primarily your loved ones who will have to search for and compile the information and relevant documents necessary to administer your estate.

Is it fair that your loved ones will have to search the bottom drawer in the kitchen for the life insurance policies? Is it fair that your loved ones will have to search the old folder where you kept your appliance warranties for the titles to your vehicles? Is it fair that your loved ones will have to search the

old suitcases in the attic to find your will? It always amazes me where people store or hide assets or important documents. Some people tuck them away into the most obscure places or disguise them to the point they are unrecognizable.

I know a woman administering her father’s estate who found little scraps of paper around her father’s home with diagrams of trees and X’s. She had no idea what the scraps meant for almost a year after his death. Three weeks before the sale of her father’s home she woke up in the middle of the night remembering an off-handed comment her uncle had made to her father ten years previous about “the money he had buried under all those trees.” She started digging under the trees and, after piecing the scraps of paper containing the diagrams together, she found 143 old Mason Jars containing about \$14,000 in cash. Thank heavens for her revelation that night! Although her story ended well, it should not have been that hard for her, the only heir, to identify and find her father’s assets.

Thus, fairness in death requires some preparation but it is not difficult. It can be as easy as making a list of all assets and debts and leaving it, together with any relevant documents (insurance policies, titles, deeds, pension documents, bank statements, loan account statements, etc) in a fireproof box, safe or fireproof file cabinet. It can be as extravagant as listing all assets, history

of the purchase, estimated value and the best way to liquidate the asset. This is especially important if you have antiques or collectibles that have value which a loved one would not recognize. You need to update your list every six months to ensure it is accurate. You also need to tell someone where the relevant documents can be found. Depending on your trust level, the “someone” to tell may be the executor named in your will, a trusted friend, or a family member.

I have compiled a form (please see next page) to help you gather your information. As someone who has assisted grieving loved ones administer estates, and as a grieving loved one who has myself administered estates, I can tell you that it is important to be fair in death.



## **ROBIN A. READ**

HAS BEEN A PRACTICING ATTORNEY WITH THE LOCAL LAW FIRM MCNERNEY, PAGE, VANDERLIN AND HALL SINCE 1986 SPECIALIZING IN GENERAL CIVIL LITIGATION; CORPORATE, PERSONNEL AND COLLECTION MATTERS; RESTRUCTURING AND BANKRUPTCY.

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **My Estate Information** Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Separation Documents (DD214) \_\_\_\_\_ Recorded in \_\_\_\_\_ County

Funeral Arrangements: Pre-arranged Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Funeral Home: \_\_\_\_\_

If not pre-arranged, state wishes (burial, cremation, viewing, service, funeral home/director):  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ASSETS:** (List financial institution, but do not list account numbers for security purposes)

**Real Estate** (address): \_\_\_\_\_

How titled (individually or jointly): \_\_\_\_\_

Mortgage: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vehicles, trailers, ATVs, snowmobiles:** List Year, Make & How Titled  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Bank Accounts:** List Financial Institution & How Titled

Checking: \_\_\_\_\_ Savings: \_\_\_\_\_

Christmas Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Certificates of Deposit: \_\_\_\_\_

Money Market: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Accounts/Safety Dep. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

**Life Insurance (including Government):** Company Amount Term/Whole Life Beneficiary(ies)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Retirement Accounts:** List Financial Institution & Contact Person/Address

IRA: \_\_\_\_\_ 401(k): \_\_\_\_\_

Keogh: \_\_\_\_\_

**Business Assets:** Name of Business Location Contact Person  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Investments:** List Name of Investment & Broker/Contact Person

Stocks: \_\_\_\_\_ Bonds: \_\_\_\_\_

Mutual Funds: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Is anyone in possession of property belonging to you? If so, state the name, item of property, location and approximate value. \_\_\_\_\_

**INCOME:** Social Security: \_\_\_\_\_ Pension: \_\_\_\_\_

Investment Income: \_\_\_\_\_ Rental Income from: Land/Property: \_\_\_\_\_ Oil/Gas Leases: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Tower Leases: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL PROPERTY:** (having value which may not be readily identifiable by all persons)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**DEBTS:** List Financial Institution & Approximate Balance

Mortgage: \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Loans: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit cards: \_\_\_\_\_

Loans from 401/Keogh: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## TO OBTAIN OR REPLACE YOUR DEERS ID CARD

**M**ilitary retirees and eligible family members who are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) may apply to any military identification card issuing facility for issue. DEERS is a computerized data bank containing information on military sponsors (active, reserve/guard, retired) and their beneficiaries who may be eligible for medical care and other military privileges.

To obtain or replace a DEER ID card, you may contact Teresa Cunningham at the Army Reserve Center, 1605 Four Mile Drive, Williamsport phone: 570-322-4696. Walk-in hours are Monday through Thursday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

## J. V. BROWN LIBRARY & ALL COUNTY LIBRARIES: A NEW RESOURCE FOR VETS

**L**ooking for information regarding services for veterans? It's closer than you think! Materials are available at the veteran display at the back entrance and on the fourth floor of the J. V. Brown Library, 19 East Fourth Street, Williamsport (www.jvbrown.edu or call 570-326-0536) and at all county libraries. For those who wish to access information on the internet, computers and assistance are available at most libraries throughout the county including:

- Hughesville Area Public Library, 146 South 5th Street, Hughesville; Phone: 570-5843762
- Jersey Shore Public Library, 110 Oliver Street, Jersey Shore; Phone: 570-398-9891
- Dr. W. B. Konkle Memorial Library 384 Broad Street, Montoursville, Phone: 570-368-1840
- Montgomery Area Public Library, 1 South Main Street, Montgomery; Phone: 570-547-6212
- Muncy Public Library, 108 South Main Street, Muncy; Phone: 570-546-5014

The Bookmobile travels across the county and will have informational materials. You may call any library to find out when the bookmobile will be in your area.

You will also find small community libraries at the following locations: Unityville, Slate Run, Barbours, Cogan House and at the post office in Ralston.

## VA INITIATES CAMPAIGN TO REPLACE OLD ID CARDS

**A**ll VA health care facilities have begun an aggressive campaign to replace old veteran ID cards (VIC) with the new VIC for all enrolled veterans. The new VIC does not include sensitive information (social security number and date of birth) on the front of the card. The new card reduces veterans' vulnerability to identity theft and demonstrates VA's commitment to securing the confidential personal information of all enrolled veterans.

Additionally, in recognition of the sacrifices made by former Prisoners of War (POW), Purple Heart (PH) Medal recipients and veterans with service-connected (SC) disabilities, "POW, PH and/or SC" indicators will be printed on the card for veterans with those verified eligibilities. The addition of these eligibility identifiers to the card will enhance identification of former POWs, Purple Heart Medal recipients and service-connected veterans when applying for special benefits.

Visit your local VA medical facility to have your picture taken and a new VIC will be mailed to you. If your eligibility for VA health care is already verified, your VIC will be mailed to you within 5-7 days. It may take longer to receive the card if your eligibility has not been verified or if you are not currently enrolled in the VA health care system. Be sure to bring with you any documents to verify your military service such as your DD214, Certificate of Discharge, and any additional proof to verify any special eligibility, such as proof of receipt of PH medal.

(<http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/application/VIC.asp>)



J. V. Brown Library, 19 East Fourth Street, Williamsport

# BENEFITS FOR VIETNAM VETS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED ILLNESSES



By Donald L. Cohick  
Dir. Veterans Affairs

## Agent Orange

When we hear this term, what do we think of? Does the picture of a secret agent dressed in an orange outfit come to mind, or some advertising gimmick for orange juice?

**Veterans of the Vietnam War know what Agent Orange is.**

Agent Orange was an herbicide used in Vietnam to kill unwanted plants and to remove leaves from trees that otherwise provided cover for the enemy. The name "Agent Orange" came from the orange stripe on the 55-gallon drums in which it was stored. Other herbicides, including Agent White and Agent Blue, were also used in Vietnam to a much lesser extent.

Between 1961 and 1971, the U.S. military in South Vietnam used more than 19 million gallons of herbicides for defoliation and crop destruction. Several types and combinations of chemicals were used and were identified by the color of the stripe on the storage drums.

The three most common mixtures were Agent Orange, Agent White and Agent Blue. Fifteen different herbicides were shipped to and used in Vietnam. Most of the herbicides sprayed in Vietnam were Agent Orange, which was used between January 1965 and April 1970.

Herbicides other than Agent Orange were used in Vietnam prior to 1965, but to a very limited extent. The total area sprayed with herbicides between 1962 and 1965 was quite small. However, some of the herbicides used in the early years contained greater concentrations of dioxin.

Spraying occurred in all four military zones of Vietnam. Heavily sprayed areas included inland forests near demarcation zone; inland forests at the junction of the borders of Cambodia, Laos, and South Vietnam; inland forests north and northwest of Saigon; mangrove forests on the southernmost peninsula of Vietnam; and mangrove forests along major shipping channels southeast of Saigon.

**Veterans who served in or visited the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975** are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in support of military opera-

tions. Certain veterans who served along the DMZ in Korea where also exposed.

Eleven diseases are presumed by the Veterans Administration to be service-connected to these veterans. These diseases are: chloracne or other acneform disease similar to chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, soft-tissue sarcoma, (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma), Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, respiratory cancers, (lung, bronchus, larynx, trachea), non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, diabetes mellitus (type 2), and chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

Vietnam veterans' children with the birth defect spina bifida are eligible for certain benefits and services and children born to female Vietnam veterans with birth defects are eligible for certain benefits, including health care.

**If you are a veteran who served in or visited Vietnam during this period or served along the DMZ in Korea during this period and you have any of these diseases,** please contact the Veterans Affairs Office to make an appointment.

"THE NAME 'AGENT ORANGE' CAME FROM THE ORANGE STRIPE ON THE 55-GALLON DRUMS IN WHICH IT WAS STORED."





## ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES ~ IN A NUTSHELL

The top question I receive in the Veterans Affairs Office is **“What benefits am I eligible for?”**

The question I ask is **“What is your veteran status?”** First let me say that if you served in the Army, Navy, United States Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Reserves or the National Guard and was discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, you are a veteran. However, the time during which you served depends on whether or not you are eligible for benefits. To receive benefits, a veteran must fit into one of two classifications: **wartime service or peacetime service.**

Wartime service is based on the following dates - World War II: December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946; Korean War: June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955; Vietnam War: August 5, 1964 ( February 28, 1961, for veterans who served ‘in country’ before August 5, 1964) through May 7, 1975; and Gulf War: August 2, 1990 through a date to be set by Law or Presidential Proclamation. To be eligible for wartime service you must have served a term of service with at least one day during these

time periods. You are considered a wartime veteran if you served during these periods even if you never served in the war or seen combat. Combat veterans have their own special status and deserve it, but this is not used to determine benefits. If you did not serve in any wartime time dates then you will fall into the peacetime veterans group.

The **length of time** you serve is also used to determine if you are eligible for benefits. Generally you must have served 180 continuous days of active duty with one day during wartime for wartime benefits. Peacetime must have served the same 180 continuous days of active duty before September 8, 1980. After this date it must be two full years. Some wartime benefits, like a disability pension, only require 90 days of service with one day during wartime.

Should a person be discharged medically because of an injury or illness then they would be eligible for benefits in whatever timeframe they served. If you served in the National Guard or Reserves and never served



active duty for other than training the only benefit you receive is credit for those active duty training days on your Social Security. If you retire from the National Guard or Reserves then you do have certain benefits.

**Your separation discharge form, the DD-214, DD-215, or for WWII veterans, a WD form,** will document the dates and type of discharge. A veteran’s service discharge form should be kept in a safe location, accessible to the veteran and the next of kin or designated representative. This form can be recorded for safe keeping and easy access at the Lycoming County Register and Records Office.

By Donald L. Cohick  
Dir. Veterans Affairs

## PERSIAN GULF VETERAN COMPENSATION APPROVED IN NOVEMBER ELECTION

Pennsylvania voters gave overwhelming approval to funding for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans Compensation Program when they voted in the general election on November 7. This program will provide payments to vets of Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield (Aug. 1990 to Aug. 1991). To be eligible for compensation of up to \$525 (\$75 per month of service), the veteran must have:

- served on active duty in the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations during the period from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991 and received the Southwest Asia Service Medal

- been a legal resident of Pennsylvania at the time of military service
- served under honorable conditions

It is expected that applications will be accepted after October 1 of this year. Individuals who received a bonus or similar compensation from any other state are not eligible for the Pennsylvania program. The deadline for applying for benefits under this program is Aug. 31, 2015. To check on availability of applications and instructions, please visit the “In the News” link at our Web site: [www.lyco.org/VA](http://www.lyco.org/VA).

## IN THE NEWS: FROM THE HOUSE & SENATE COMMITTEES ON VETERANS



**The House Committee on Veterans Affairs** reviews veterans' programs, examines current laws, and reports bills and amendments to strengthen existing laws concerning veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs, such as for health care, disability compensation, GI bill education and job training, home loan guarantees, life insurance policies, and a nationwide system of veterans' cemeteries. (<http://www.house.gov/va>)



**The U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs** reviews programs and agencies for veterans, examines current laws impacting veterans, and develops legislation to improve existing laws concerning veterans. We also hold confirmation hearings on those nominated by the President to fill positions within the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. (<http://veterans.senate.gov/>)

### NEW VETERANS LEGISLATION SIGNED

**Washington, D.C. —  
Friday, Dec. 22, 2006**

President Bush today signed legislation that will improve benefits and health care for America's veterans and their families along a broad front. The legislation, **S. 3421, the Veterans Benefits, Healthcare, and Information Technology Act of 2006** was passed by the House on December 8 and includes \$3.2 billion in funding to enhance veterans' benefits and health care, secure sensitive personal information and authorize VA health care facility construction nationwide.

The new law should also help rural states by allowing VA to create a pilot program which makes non-VA facilities – such as private nursing homes or community hospitals – eligible for state veterans' home per diem payments.

### MILLIONS RECEIVE COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES FOR VA BENEFITS

**Washington, D.C. — Tuesday, January 9, 2007** – Millions of veterans and eligible family members will see their disability compensation, pension, and survivors' benefits increased as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides an annual cost-of-living increase for key benefits.

"We want all veterans with disabilities related to the defense of our country to receive the benefits they have earned," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson. "With this increase, we ensure their payments keep pace with the cost of living." A recent law signed by President Bush provides a 3.3 percent increase in disability compensation and survivors' benefits.

**Eligible veterans and family members will see this increase starting in their January 2007 checks.**

Under the veterans disability compensation program, tax-free payments will generally range from \$115 to \$2,471 per month depending on the degree of disability. Special payments up to \$7,070 per month apply to the most severely injured veterans.

Pension disability benefits will also be increased by the same percentage and effective on the same date. The maximum annual rate for permanently and totally disabled veterans can range from \$10,929 to \$18,234. Payments under this program are based on household income. This increase also applies to survivors of veterans who died in service or from a service-connected disability. Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) survivors' benefit payments can range from \$1,067 to \$2,443 per month.

Survivors of wartime veterans receiving death pension are also entitled to an increase. The maximum annual payment rate for a surviving spouse can range from \$7,329 to \$11,715. Benefits under this program are intended to bring an eligible spouse's income to a level established by law.



## DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

Become a part of The Veterans History Project, a project of the Library of Congress aimed at collecting oral history interviews, memoirs, letters, diaries, photographs, and other original materials from veterans of the following wars:

- World War I (1914-1920)
- World War II (1939-1946)
- Korean War (1950-1955)
- Vietnam War (1961-1975)
- Persian Gulf War (1990-TBD)
- Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present)

In addition, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories.

Your contribution will be added to the Veterans History Project's archives. Once it is processed and housed in a preservation environment, the veteran's service history information will be available online in our online database and the interview (or other materials) will be available to researchers who visit the Library of Congress. Prospective researchers will be able to review collections by registering for a Reader Registration Card and visiting the Folklife Center Reading Room at the Library.

Some collections are also used by the Library of Congress for special presentations and events presenting and promoting the Veterans History Project.

For preservation quality purposes, you are requested that you send original recordings, photographs, and other materials. Please make any copies you wish to retain for yourself *before* submitting your recording, photographs, or written materials to the Veterans History Project.

You may choose to interview someone, tell your own story, or you may contact one of the following official partners located in Pennsylvania listed below. They are cooperating organizations willing to promote the Veterans History Project and to commit resources to carrying it out.

- **Butler VA Medical Center**  
325 New Castle Road  
Butler, PA 16001
- **College of Communications  
The Pennsylvania State University**  
128 Carnegie Building  
University Park, PA 16801
- **Department of Library Sciences  
Clarion University of Pennsylvania**  
840 Wood Street  
Clarion, PA 16214-1232
- **Lancaster County Historical Society**  
230 North President Avenue  
Lancaster, PA 17603-3125
- **VA Medical Center**  
1700 S. Lincoln Ave.  
Lebanon, PA 17042

For a complete listing, you may view it online at: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/partners/pennsylvania.html>

**For more  
information, visit  
the Veterans  
History Project  
Web site at:**

[www.loc.gov/  
vets/](http://www.loc.gov/vets/)

Phone:  
(202) 707-4916  
Toll-Free:  
(888) 371-5848  
FAX:  
(202) 252-2046

**Mail inquiries or  
materials to:**

The Veterans  
History Project  
American Folklife Center  
Library of Congress  
101 Independence Ave., SE  
Washington DC  
20540-4615

# WHO WAS GLENN SHARROW?

(The following is reprinted from the 1952 Souvenir Booklet commemorating the 100th anniversary of Hughesville, PA. In that publication, it was noted that the following article appeared originally in a November 1918 edition of the *Hughesville Mail*.)

**H**ughesville was awakened at 4:15 o'clock on Monday morning by the ringing of the Methodist church bell by the pastor, the Rev. J. C. Young, after he was notified of the armistice by Burgess Lyon. It was but a few minutes until the whistles, bells, and fire alarms spread the good news of the end of World War I. The streets were filled with people, overjoyed with the news, a bonfire was lighted, and a parade was formed. A thanksgiving service was held in the afternoon at the Methodist Church, which was very well attended. When the world was celebrating the great victory, one heart was made sad by the news of the death of her son in action at the front. The following letter came to Mrs. Addie Sharrow at Philadelphia, Pa., dated Oct. 12, 1918:

*"Dear Madam: It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter, yet I would not miss the opportunity to express my sympathy and the sympathy of the battery to you in your hour of bereavement.*

*"Your son, Glenn, joined us at Souge [France], where he had a detail in the artillery school. He could not endure to lose his chance to do his bit at the Front, and came up with us. He has been a great help to me in the battery and his work always recommended him for higher rank.*



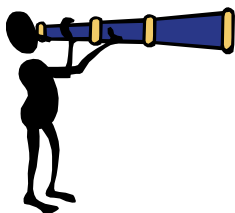
*"He fell serving his gun under shellfire and death was instantaneous. I have personally seen to it that he had a suitable burial, and that his grave is properly marked.*

*Sincerely, Charles W. Gallagher, Capt. 13th F. A., Comdg Btry 'F'."*

The body of Corporal Sharrow was returned to Hughesville Sept. 7, 1921, and he was buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery on Sept. 9th, with full military honors, conducted by the Post, which bears his name—Glenn Sharrow Post No. 35, American Legion, Hughesville.

**NOTE:** According to the 1910 Federal Census, it is recorded that Glenn (who was 13 years old at the time) lived in Hughesville with his parents, Elmer (who was 45 years old and worked as a filer at a saw mill) and Adeline, who was 38. Glenn also had a 16 year-old brother, Clayton, and two sisters, Pearl, age 19, and Martha, age 11.

According to records held at the Lycoming County Courthouse, Glenn Sharrow was born January 10, 1897 and entered the military on Sept. 16, 1915 when he was 18 years old. He was killed in action in France on October 3, 1918. He was 21 years old.



In upcoming editions of *The Lycoming Vet*, watch for articles highlighting these soldiers who have been honored with local American Legion and VFW affiliations: Garrett Cochran (American Legion Post 1), George Webster Pepperman (American Legion Post 36), Eugene Grafius (American Legion Post 104), Roland Ritter (American Legion Post 268), Royal Steinbacher (American Legion Post 617), Howard Kahler (VFW Post 844), LeRoy O. Buck (VFW Post 7863) and others.

## COUNTY VA OFFICE ~ OUTREACH SCHEDULE

To make it more convenient for veterans living in the eastern and western parts of the county, the VA Office comes to you! Don Cohick will be at the following Jersey Shore and Muncy locations in February, March and April:

**Tuesday, Feb. 6 - 1:00 to 4:00 PM—Muncy Outreach:**

Don Cohick will be at the VFW Post 3428, Edward J. Smith Post, 12 North Market St., Muncy, PA

**Tuesday, March 13 - 1:00 to 4:00 PM—Jersey Shore Outreach:**

Don Cohick will be at the American Legion Post 36, George Webster Pepperman, 320 Seminary Street, Jersey Shore, PA

**Tuesday, April 10 - 1:00 to 4:00 PM—Muncy Outreach:**

Don Cohick will be at the VFW Post 3428, Edward J. Smith Post, 12 North Market St., Muncy, PA

## GEARING UP FOR MEMORIAL DAY

One of the most labor-intensive jobs here at the VA office takes place during the month leading up to Memorial Day—which, this year, is Monday, May 28th. A county grave marker is provided to all deceased veterans as indicated in the County Code. Additionally, a new flag is to be placed in each marker at every veteran’s grave every spring. So, you may ask, how many flags is our office responsible for placing in county cemeteries every year?

The answer is: **almost 17,000 new flags** are placed at the 141 cemeteries around the county. Obviously, we don’t have the time or manpower to do this job single-handedly. We depend on staff at the larger cemeteries as well as caring individuals and organizations throughout the county who volunteer to place the flags at each grave. Don Cohick and Joan Blank also travel many miles, carry armloads of flags, and visit the most remote, isolated, and solitary burial sites in the county to ensure that every veteran grave is displaying an American flag on Memorial Day.



G.A.R. marker at veteran grave in Clinton Baptist Church Cemetery near Montgomery

This is a breakdown of the number of veterans buried within the county as of May, 2006:

War	Number of Veterans
Civil War	2,776
Revolutionary War	93
War of 1812	26
Mexican War	2
Indian War	3
Spanish American War	426
World War I	3,420
World War II	8,244
Korean Conflict	1,264
Vietnam Era	606
Persian Gulf	21
Peace Time	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,936</b>

**If you would like to help** with this monumental job, please give us a call. We will let you know if there is a cemetery near you that needs a “sponsor.”



# LYCOMING COUNTY OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Suite 104  
Executive Plaza Building  
330 Pine Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Mailing Address:  
48 West Third Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REBECCA A. BURKE, CHAIR  
RICHARD T. NASSBERG, VICE CHAIR  
ERNEST P. LARSON, SECRETARY

## We are here to help you . . .



**1 SG Donald L. Cohick (Ret.)**

**Lycoming County Director of Veterans Affairs**

570-327-2365    dcohick@lyco.org

- Fully accredited as a Veterans Service Officer by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- Twenty-seven years combined military service

Visit our new  
Web site:



**www.lyco.org/VA**

for up-to-date news and  
information for veterans

**Joan C. Blank**  
**Administrative Specialist**

570-320-8157  
joan.blank@lyco.org

Fully accredited as a  
Veterans Service Officer by the  
United States Department  
of Veterans Affairs



## ***The Lycoming Vet***

*is published quarterly  
by the Office of Veterans Affairs  
in Lycoming County, PA*

**Contributors:** Nelson Forsburg,  
Robin Read, Jill Hiller, Allen Hubler,  
Bruce Foster, Joan Blank & Don Cohick

**Editor/layout & design:**

*Joan Blank*

Email info to: joan.blank@lyco.org

Phone: 570-320-8157 or

Fax: 570-320-2152



To make an appointment,

please call

**Karen M. Lusk**  
**Secretary**

570-320-2100

Office Hours

Monday through Friday

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Closed weekends and  
major holidays.