



The Center's Review

A newsletter for donors and friends of:
The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, Inc.

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www.PhilaVets.org
215-923-2600

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Edward J. Lowry

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From the Desk of Edward J. Lowry, Chief Executive Officer

Our 3rd Annual Philadelphia Doo Wop Festival was held on Saturday, August 9, 2008. It was a great day of musical entertainment and a huge success. Approximately 5,000 people were in attendance and we raised \$74,000. The money raised will augment costs associated with assisting honorably discharged veterans. Furthermore, we would like to thank Tierney Communications, Jim Bowman, and the Doo Wop Committee for all of their hard work. We would also like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters that attended the festival for their continued support of the veterans in our area!

In an ongoing effort to reach out to organizations assisting veterans throughout Pennsylvania, the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs, Brigadier General Scott Wagner, recently visited our office in downtown Philadelphia. General Wagner is attempting to visit agencies that provide services that assist Pennsylvania's veterans. Christopher L. Nelson, Director of Marketing and Veterans Information, has developed a weekly veterans news digest which presents current news, events, legislation, programs, and services that will impact the veteran community in Pennsylvania. The Digest news website is www.PAVeterans.state.pa.us. General Wagner, Chris Nelson, and their staff should be commended for this excellent outreach tool for our veteran community.

We would like to thank Paul Volz, a photographer, who has volunteered his time to take photos of our events and clients. On behalf of the veterans we serve, thank you for your kindness and support!

In closing, please remember "Freedom is not free" and America is #1 thanks to our Veterans!

Help for Veterans with TBI and PTSD - America's Heroes at Work

The U.S. Department of Labor recently launched America's Heroes at work - a public education campaign focusing on the employment challenges of transitioning service members living with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Designed for employers and the workforce development system, the project provides information and tools to help individuals with TBI and/or PTSD succeed in the workplace - particularly members of the military re-

turning from Iraq and Afghanistan, but also the other millions of Americans experiencing these common conditions.

TBI and PTSD have been called the signature injuries of the Global War on Terror. With more and more veterans facing these issues as they transition into civilian life, employers are recognizing a need to educate themselves on the workplace needs of the TBI and PTSD populations.

www.AmericasHeroesAtWork.gov

The site features common employer questions, success stories, downloadable fact sheets and practical information on implementing simple workplace supports to help those with TBI and PTSD achieve workplace success.

Please pass this information along to your employers, family, and friends. With your help, we can educate America's employers on strategies to help veterans with TBI and PTSD succeed on the job.

Donors Corner



Phillies Wives - On Sunday, August 10, 2008, the Phillies Wives held a silent auction on the main concourse at the Philadelphia Phillies Game to raise funds for The Mary E. Walker House, our 30 Bed Women's Transitional Housing Residence located on the grounds of the Coatesville VA. The wives raised \$32,000 for the Walker House. Thank you Phillies Wives, especially Michelle Burrell, for your hard work and support!

SAP America - \$10,000 Matching gift for John DeBella's WMGK Veterans Radiothon.

Jordan Glider - (Pictured Right) in conjunction with John DeBella's Veterans Radiothon, did a Scout Service Project for the Center. In the course of 8 weeks his project distributed 300 Radiothon buttons and raised a total of \$1,613. Jordan recruited over 20 of his friends, neighbors, and family to distribute buttons. He made 8 personal appearances where he spoke about his project. Jordan met our local political leaders including Representative Patrick Murphy, State Representative Marguerite Quinn, State Senator Chuck McIlhinney, and Candidate for Congress Tom Manion.

Jordan stated that he wants to serve his country in the United States Marine Corps when he is of age.

The total raised by John DeBella and WMGK at the 2nd Annual Veterans Radiothon is \$85,790.

VFW Post 5343, Villas, New Jersey, Commander Rich Foster - \$2,500.



Pictured Above: Jordan Glider (left) and Edward J. Lowry, CEO of The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, Inc on August 29th, 2008.

Your Chance to Support Veterans During the Holiday Season

The holidays are a time when many of our veteran clients have no family or friends to celebrate with. It is especially a time when our veterans should feel that they are not forgotten.

Each year the Center serves two traditional holiday meals for our veteran clients. Veterans enjoy turkey, filling, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce.

The Thanksgiving meal will be served on November 25th and the Christmas meal will be held on December 18th.

A \$5.00 donation will provide one veteran with a traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas meal during this holiday season.

You may mail in a check payable to PVMSEC at 213-217 N. 4th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Attn: Holiday Meal Donation.

You may also visit www.PhilaVets.org to donate as well.

The following food and personal care items will also be greatly appreciated	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frozen or cooked turkey or turkey breasts • Gravy • Mashed potatoes or sweet potatoes • Dressing • Rolls and butter • Pies or cakes • Coffee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socks • Underwear • Gloves • Knit Hats • Toothbrushes • Disposable razors • Travel size deodorant, alcohol free mouthwash, toothpaste, and shampoo. • Combs
<p>All items above may be dropped off at 213-217 N. 4th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106 (Entrance on Florist Street) Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm</p>	

Leave a Lasting Legacy - New Planned Giving Campaign Announced

In an environment where funding for programs like ours is being cut everyday it is important for our survival to seek out new resources that will allow us to continue helping the men and women who served this great country.

The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center is proud to announce a new program we are offering to all of our supporters, associates and friends that will greatly help the Center.

In an effort to combat shrinking funding resources to our country's Veterans, we, in partnership with a local financial firm, will be able to help many of you gain access to **NO** cost life insurance.

This program will provide additional resources to us so we can continue helping so many Veterans along with providing no cost life insurance to you and your family. It is a winning combination for all of us.

We know that so many

of our supporters want to help in so many ways. This is one way you can help the Center that will not only benefit the Veterans we help everyday, but you as well. Your assistance requires very little effort and no cost, so we are encouraging everyone to call. Please do not wait.

Another option to leave a lasting legacy is to name the Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, Inc. as a beneficiary in your will.

For details and to learn how to get started please contact Lincoln Strehle at 215-923-2600 Ext: 43 or Lincoln.Strehle@pvmsec.org.

Thank you for your ongoing support. It is your generosity that will help us insure our ability to serve the Veterans living in our community.

Important Disability News Released by VA

Washington - Veterans with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) may receive badly needed support for themselves and their families after the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) announced that ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease will become a presumptively compensable illness for all veterans with 90 days or more of continuously active military

service.

"Veterans are developing ALS in rates higher than the general population, and it was appropriate to take action," Secretary of Veteran Affairs Dr. James B. Peake said.

"ALS is a disease that progresses rapidly, once it is diagnosed," the Secretary explained. "There simply isn't time to develop

the evidence needed to support compensation claims before many veterans become seriously ill. My decision will make those claims much easier to process, and for them and their families to receive the compensation they have earned through their service to our nation.

You can find detailed information on the weekly

PA Veterans News Digest dated September 26, 2008 at www.paveterans.state.pa.us

If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with ALS and would like to file a claim with the VA please contact us at 215-923-2600.

For more information on VA's disability compensation program contact 1-800-827-1000.

2nd Floor VA Clinic Expands its Services

The VA Clinic is expanding its current list of services to include primary care.

Located on the 2nd floor of the Center 213-217 N. 4th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, regular check ups, blood work, EKG's, and ordering of medications will now be provided under primary care.

Also available: Psychologist, Psychiatrist, and Individual and Group PTSD counseling.

Must call 215-923-1163 to schedule an appointment.

Primary Care Hours:

Monday: 9am - 1pm
 Tuesday: 9am - 11am
 Wednesday: 9am - 11am

Military Retirees Receive 5.8% Cost-of-Living Increase for 2009

This increase, which goes into effect on December 1, 2008, also applies to SBP annuities, Social Security checks, and VA disability and survivor benefits. Retirees will see the increase in their January 2009 checks. Retirees who first became a member of the uniformed services on or after September 8, 1980, and retired in 2008 under the High-36 retirement will receive a Partial COLA on a prorated basis. This COLA is the highest seen in over 15 years.

Don't forget to sign up for our e-newsletter at www.PhilaVets.org!

The Philadelphia Veterans Multi Service & Education Center, Inc.



Serving those who served for over 27 Years

213-217 N. 4th Street
Philadelphia PA 19106

Phone: 215.923.2600

Fax: 215.925.8460

Web: www.philavets.org

Our mission is to provide employment, training and related educational services to all facets of the community, especially veterans, regardless of their station in life. Also, to provide social and human services counseling and referrals to less fortunate clients experiencing barriers in finding their way back into the mainstream of society.

Services / Programs

We provide a variety of free services to honorably discharged veterans in the tri-state area including:

- **Employment and Training**
- **Services to Homeless Veterans**
- **Transitional / Permanent Housing**

Help PVMSEC go GREEN!

**Sign up for our e-newsletter by visiting
www.PhilaVets.org and click
on the contact link**

Doing so will save PVMSEC on printing and mailing cost as well as saving our environment!

There are a number of ways to make an impact on a Veterans life:

Mail in a check payable to PVMSEC at: 213-217 N. 4th Street Philadelphia, PA 19106

Leave a Lasting Legacy: Name The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, Inc. as a beneficiary in your will or ask us about obtaining no cost life insurance. Call 215-923-2600 Ext: 43 for more details

United Way: Employees working in organizations supporting United Way can use Donor Choice #04308 to donate directly to PVMSEC

Combined Federal Campaign: Federal employees can donate directly to PVMSEC by using CFC Contribution Code #9226

Web www.PhilaVets.org

Call 1-800-923-VETS