

# NH STATE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 3 May 2022

Location: ECTC 722 Riverwood Dr., Pembroke, NH

## OFFICERS and VOTING MEMBERS

Paul Lloyd - Chair

Andy Patterson - Vice Chair

Tony Fowler - Secretary

Armand Soucy - Chaplain

Kelly Dobens - Treasurer

David Kenney - Chair Emeritus

Conrad Perreault (alt)

## Marine Corps League

Shawn Carboni (prim)

Mark Lindsley (alt)

Chris Peirce (alt)

## Air Force Association

Kevin Grady (prim)

Gavin MacAloon

## Military Officers Association (MOAA)

Peter Burdett (prim)

Laurance Miller(alt)

William Luti (alt)

## Air Force Sergeants Association

Richard Dolbec (prim)

Martha Gladu (alt)

## Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

Tony Fowler

## American Legion

Mike Lopez (prim)

Robert Blais (alt)

Bill Roy (alt)

## National Guard Association of NH

Peter Duffy (prim)

Roy Hunter (alt)

Mike Horne (alt)

## AUSA Col. Cross Chapter

Greg d'Arbonne (prim)

Ed Harrington (alt)

## NH Army Retiree Council

Frank Musmanno (prim)

Mike Rice (alt)

## Camp Resilience

Kurt Webber (prim)

Ed Harrington (alt)

Matt Dubois (alt)

## NH National Guard Enlisted Association

Mike Lestage (prim)

Mike Rice (alt)

Jack Howley (alt)

## Catholic War Veterans

Denise DeBlois (prim)

Robert Guldner (alt)

Armand Soucy (alt)

## NH Veterans Association

Kelly Dobens (prim)

Mike Young (alt)

Doug Crooker(alt)

## Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association

Nate Smith (prim)

## Disabled American Veterans

Rick Borrazas (prim)

Andrew Patterson (alt)

## Patriot Resilient Leader Institute (Camp Resilience)

Kurt Webber (prim)

Ed Harrington (alt)

## Korean War Veterans

Mike Lopez (prim)

## Reserve Officers Association of NH

David Kenney (prim)

Mike Horne (alt)

BG John Pappas (alt)

**Rolling Thunder**

Bruce Garry (prim)

Keith Hurrell (alt)

Diane Domenicus (alt)

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

Russ Norris (prim)

Leon Rideout (alt)

Paul Lloyd (alt)

**Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA-41)**

Ray Goulet (prim)

Alan Grant (alt)

**Legislative Members (Voting):**

Al Baldasaro

Regina Birdsell

Bob Guida

Patricia Klee

Jim Creighton

**LEGISLATIVE ADVISORS: (non-voting):**

**Governor's Office** - Jane Graham

**Senator Maggie Hassan** - Justin Troiano

**Senator Jeanne Shaheen** - Chris Scott

**Congressman Chris Pappas** – Brett Levasseur

**Congresswoman Annie Kuster** – Molly Small

**COMMITTEE ADVISORS/AGENCIES:**

**GUESTS:** Congressman Chris Pappas

**OPEN MEETING/CALL TO ORDER:** Paul Lloyd, Chairman, convened meeting at 1700

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman

**Invocation:** Armand Soucy

**Welcome - Remarks of the Chair:**

Kevin Forrest, Director, VAMC  
Manchester, NH

Dr. Brett Rusch, Director, VAMC White  
River Junction, VT

BG David J. Mikolaities - Adjutant General  
NHNG

Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant General-  
NHNG

Shawn Buck, NH State Veterans  
Cemetery

Kim MacKay, NH Veterans Home

William Gaudreau, Director, Office of  
Veteran Services

Michael Hartt, American Legion Veterans  
Service Officer

Amy Cook, DHHS

John Reed, Martin's Point

Dan Marcek, VETFLIX

Margaret "Peggy" LaBrecque, Sage  
Emeritus

Jorg Dreusicke, VFW Legislative Office

JP Marzullo, Liberty House

**Secretary's Report:** Meeting has a quorum with the necessary number of in-person and virtual attendees. Attendance on file. With no edits the minutes were placed in the record.

**Message from the Secretary:** If you are attending the meeting by mobile phone or iPad, please let me know who you are in the chat so I can record your attendance. You can also send me an email: [tefowler173@gmail.com](mailto:tefowler173@gmail.com)

**Treasurer's Report:** On record

**Comments from Director Emeritus – Dave Kenney**

**Guest Speaker: Congressman Pappas:** Congressman Pappas updated us on what He is working on, the AIR Commission recommendations, The toxic exposure legislation and the Claim Sharks.

### **SUPPORTING AGENCY REPORTS:**

**Governor's Office:** Jane Graham gave a brief report, talked about the Veterans Campus in Franklin. How the Gov meet with the National Leader of the American Legion, The National President of the VFW Auxiliary while they were visiting the State.

**Manchester VA Update:** Kevin Forrest

Report Attached

**DMAVS Update: Shawn Buck**

Gave a brief from DMAVS that included the update on the Burial Equity Act and the upcoming Memorial Day ceremony sponsored by the Marine Corps League.

**NHVH Update Kim MacKay, NH Veterans Home Commandant.** Gave a brief on the Veterans Home that included the need for Nursing Staff, Update on Red Friday, the new shirts designed by one of the residents. Lastly the unveiling of Past Commandant Peggy LaBrecque portrait in the Corridor to Tarr South Conference room, will be done on June 20 at 1030 in the pavilion.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) Nominations opened for Chairman, Paul; Lloyd was nominated for another 2-year term. No nominations for Secretary.
- 2) Talked about the Annual Outing, Vice Chair Andy was going to look for a venue.
- 3) Quick discussion on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the restart of SVAC.

**LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS:** Kevin Grady - Legislative Chair Briefing attached.

**LEGISLATIVE ADVISORS:**

**Chris Scott (Senator Shaheen):** Brief report

**Justin Troiano (Senator Hassan):** brief report

**Molly Small (Rep. Annie Kuster):** brief report

**Brett Levasseur (Rep. Chris Pappas):** brief report, attached

**Next meeting date:** Tuesday June 7, 2022

**Adjourn Meeting:**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tony E. Fowler  
Secretary

## **SVAC 05/03/2022**

### **LEADERSHIP UPDATES**

- Acting Chief of Medicine – Dr. William Sirotty
- Acting Chief of Surgery – Dr. Richard Beauchesne
- Acting Chief of Urgent Care – Dr. Kevin Keenan
- Acting Chief Fiscal Officer – Ms. Melody Reno

\*Recruitments underway

- Dr. Sumant Chakravorty, GI - starts May 8, 2022

### **CONSTRUCTION UPDATES**

- Dental Clinic tentatively scheduled to re-open summer.
- Women's Health to relocate to 1<sup>st</sup> floor and open by mid-summer

### **CELEBRATIONS**

- Manchester Doctor of the Year 2022 – Dr. Pamela Grich - Nominated by her peers, continuously goes above and beyond to meet patient needs while extending a caring, empathetic hand that instills admiration and trust for all Veterans.
- Nurse's Week May 6-12, 2022
- Memorial Day Celebration May 30, 2022 10:30A – 12P

## NEWS

Caregiver support update – all reassessments or changes to stipends are halted until further notice. Letters have been mailed to Veterans and caregivers enrolled in the comprehensive program. Veterans and caregivers enrolled in the Legacy program will receive letters no later than May 31, 2022.

COVID Home Test Kits for Veterans – Available to Veterans enrolled in Homeless Program. POC – Emily Reisine 603-624-4366 x3622

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Nursing Job Fair – May 14, 2022 – Questions contact

[Carlene.Ferrier@va.gov](mailto:Carlene.Ferrier@va.gov)



VA Hiring Fair.docx

Manchester VA2K - May 18, 2022 – For more information contact

[VAMCMANWholeHealth@va.gov](mailto:VAMCMANWholeHealth@va.gov)



VA2K 2022.pdf

Baby Shower – June 5, 2022 10A- 12P RSVP to [Laura.Caisse@va.gov](mailto:Laura.Caisse@va.gov)



Baby Shower 2022  
Flyer.pdf

# Rep. Pappas DC Actions for Veterans

## April 2022

### Sponsored Bills

- **Faster Payments to Veterans' Survivors Act**
  - This bill would improve VA's management of its undisbursed funds to get recently deceased veterans' benefits to their beneficiaries faster.
  - Featured in an HVAC legislative hearing on March 30.
  - Supported by 30 bipartisan members of Congress. Senators Brown and Boozman are introducing the Senate companion.
  - Supported by VFW, American Legion, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Modern Military Association of America (MMAA), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA).
  - Updating text based on VA's feedback and will be introducing the bill by the end of the month.
  
- **Bill to authorize the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) Program**
  - This bill would authorize the SSVF program for FY23 and FY24
  - The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program was established in 2011 to rapidly re-house homeless veteran families and prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk due to a housing crisis.
    - Through a competitive application, the VA makes grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives to provide eligible veteran families with outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining VA and other mainstream benefits that promote housing stability and community integration.
    - It is the first homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program administered by VA and the first homeless program designed to serve veterans with families.
    - Services include outreach, case management, assistance in obtaining VA benefits, and help in accessing and coordinating other public benefits.
    - SSVF grantees can also make time-limited temporary payments on behalf of veterans to cover rent, utilities, security deposits and moving costs.
  - Introducing the bill ahead of its inclusion in an Economic Opportunity subcommittee legislative hearing later this month.

### Cosponsored Bills

- **Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) Restoration Act:** would restore federal government providing 100% of the BAH (the federal government currently provides 95% with servicemembers responsible for the remaining 5%)
- **Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act:** prohibits the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) from clawing back any DoD retirement benefit overpayments received in the month when the veteran was alive for at least 24 hours.

- **Housing our Veterans Act:** requires GAO to conduct a study on the availability of affordable housing for veterans participating in transitional housing through funding provided by the VA
- **Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021:** provides a Congressional Gold Medal to women switchboard operators in WWI (Hello Girls) in recognition of their service and contribution to the war effort

### Co-Signed Letters

- FY23 Appropriations
  - Supporting full funding for the Civil Air Patrol
  - Supporting DoD Breast Cancer Research Program
  - Supporting full funding for the F-35 Program
  - Supporting DoD Military Burn Trauma Research Program
  - Supporting full funding for the National Guard Youth ChalleNge Program (NGYCP)
  - Supporting full funding for Veterans Treatment Courts
  - Supporting DoD Melanoma Research Program
  - Supporting aviation workforce grant programs
  - Supporting DoD’s prostate cancer research program
  - Supporting VA Medical and Prosthetic Research
  - Supporting the Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program (HVRP)

### Additional Activity

- On March 28, helped launch the **Public Shipyard Caucus** as a founding member.
  - The Caucus was founded to support the nation’s four public shipyards – Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Virginia, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Washington, and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Hawaii - which are responsible for repairing and retrofitting the U.S. Navy’s aircraft carriers and submarines.
  - The Public Shipyard Caucus is the only congressional caucus focused exclusively on the nation’s public shipyards and serves as a venue to discuss public shipyard issues, increase stakeholder support for public shipyards, and raise awareness of their importance to Congress.

### HVAC Activity

- Full Committee
  - 4/28 Hearing with VA Secretary McDonough on the FY23 VA Budget Request
- Subcommittee Hearings
  - 4/27 Joint Oversight & Investigations + Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee Hearing on Veteran Benefit Claims Process (“claim sharks”)





