

The  
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**HONORING  
ALL VETERANS**

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# FROM THE FRONT OFFICE: VETERANS DAY

On Veterans Day, what comes to mind are the memories of gallant men and women who fought for peace in all wars or wars as far back that have touched our lives either by our careers, friends or family. In World War I, it was that 11th hour on the 11th day of November during the Great War of 1918 that the Allies and Germany ceased hostile attacks against each other while their leaderships were finding a resolution to end the war. That moment sparked a common ground to enjoy what they felt was glorious freedom from enemy bullets and finding peace despite apparent differences in language and culture.

That unique moment made history in American life. Since then, generations and wars have passed, but men and women elected to be more vigilant about protecting freedom. It was a voluntary sacrifice to participate in the war so that

you and I today are spared the devastation, bloodshed and pain brought by the travesty of war. It is a noble irony that veterans give up their own freedom to get back a greater freedom -- not for themselves, but for all of us to enjoy. Indeed, unselfish valor

Honoring their sacrifices is not a charitable act of kindness, but is a moral imperative. This is the reason why I am passionate about bringing into the NAVSEA workforce willing disabled veterans who choose to serve the needs of our Fleet and our warfighter. I can't be more proud of the courage and determination of the 434 wounded warriors who have joined our NAVSEA team this year. Regardless of their battle scars, they continue to make a clear choice as civilians to take part in making our Navy's missions successful. To them and to all of our veterans and their families who have stood the watch, my deepest gratitude for giving us Veterans



**Vice Adm. Kevin M. McCoy**

Day. Thank you for inspiring us to pass on the freedoms you valiantly fought for. You will never be forgotten. As always, stay safe and keep charging!

## ORIGINS OF VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS

The original idea for a Veterans Day celebration was a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11 a.m.

The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year at Arlington National Cemetery, Nov. 11. The ceremony begins at 11 a.m. with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns and continues inside the Memorial Amphitheater with a parade of colors by veterans' organizations and remarks from dignitaries. The ceremony is intended to honor and thank all who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

For more information, visit [www.va.gov/opa/vetsday](http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday).



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# HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY?

Veterans Day was first acknowledged as Armistice Day in November 1919 to honor the end of World War I, which took place in the eleventh hour on Nov. 11, 1918. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..." In 1954, Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day to honor American veterans of all wars.

NAVSEA employees share what Veterans Day means to them and their plans for reflection on that day.

## Dave Ellis, SEA 21

"Veterans Day is a time of reflection for those who came before us who have served in the military, including my father, and for the people that I work with everyday that currently serve in the military for all the sacrifices they make. It's also a time to be proud of being a part of Team Ships and working to support our military."



## Chris Horten, PMS 470

"Veterans Day is a way of celebrating all the sacrifices that our wonderful armed forces make to keep this country safe and free. On Veterans Day, I usually go downtown to enjoy the commemorative events that are taking place."



## Michael Marder, PEO IWS

"So what will I do this Veterans Day? I'll make my annual pilgrimage to the Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., to see the names of the close friends I lost in the Vietnam War etched into the black obsidian, like I have for 40 years."



## Regina Mabry, SEA 001

"Veterans Day means a day to celebrate and remember those that gave their lives for our freedom. For me, it's personal, because I do have friends from high school who have passed away in the war. Sometimes I go to the gravesite in Arlington to pay my respect."



## Stacy Goodman, SEA 05

"It is a day to remember everybody who has served and given us our freedom. I play the clarinet in the Redskins Marching Band, so we usually perform a tribute to the veterans at that weekend's home game. We'll play all the armed forces songs."



## Moses Madera, SEA 10

"I was in the Air Force and currently serve in the Georgia Air National Guard. On Veterans Day, I have as much fun as possible with my family and friends. I contact some of my colleagues that I've served with and thank them for their service. A lot are still serving overseas and I appreciate their commitment."



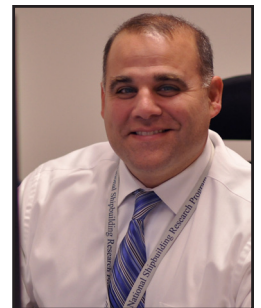
## LeRoy J. Harvey, SEA 04

"Even before my 14 years of active duty in the Marine Corps, Veterans Day always had special meaning to me, because of my grandfather, a World War II Marine. My grandfather would relate the sacrifices made by the Marines and sailors he served with during WWII. Now as a veteran, my take on Veteran's Day is deeper yet simple. All of America's warriors from the American Revolution to the current conflicts overseas, regardless of branch of service, have one thing in common: Dedication. Dedication to protect their country and families and each other by choosing to face the ultimate sacrifice so others do not have to."



## Larry Pugliese, SEA 09P

"I use Veterans Day to celebrate those who have served, or are currently serving in the armed forces. I call to mind my uncle Joe who served in World War II, my father who served in Korea, and the hundreds of thousands of men and women serving today. My duty as an American and a veteran is to honor all veterans and never forget their heroic sacrifices."



## David Black, PEO IWS

"Veterans Day has always been important to me based on the fact that my father was the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps and served for 30 years, including combat tours in Korea, Dominican Republic and Vietnam."





# FOCUS ON SERVICE: SARKIS TATIGIAN



From there, Tatigian went on to work at the General Motors Corp. plant in Linden, N.J., where he inspected naval aircraft radio equipment in the FM1 Wildcat fighters as they came off the assembly line in support of World War II. He spent three months there before heading off to Navy boot camp. Following boot camp, he attended electronic training schools where he would later graduate as an aviation electronics technician.

Tatigian was then sent to Washington, D.C., in 1944 to work on what he would call “one of the more exciting parts of his Navy career.” He was ordered to Washington to work on the Navy’s BAT program, a special weapons ordnance device that was an aircraft launched, air-to-surface, radar-guided glide bomb being developed for use in the war.

“I was very involved in working on the development of this weapon, but we worked on other similar weapons, too,” he said. “We were also developing radio-controlled and infrared-guided weapons that were completely unheard of at the time.”

“I’m particularly proud of my work there because the BAT became operational in January of 1945 as was the first naval aircraft-launched guided weapon,” he said.

Tatigian decided to leave the Navy in 1946. Following his decision to leave, his executive officer asked if he would

take a desk job as a civilian and stay in Washington.

“I thought to myself well, ‘I guess all it takes is common sense (to work a desk job),’ so I agreed to accept without even knowing exactly what I would be doing,” he said.

Tatigian said that although his time wearing the uniform in the Navy was a long time ago, his experience and technical background as an AETM has helped him here at NAVSEA relating to the engineering and technical community in acquisition programs.

Tatigian has no plans of retiring any time soon.

“What more could you ask for when you still maintain a sense of personal worthiness?”



**Sarkis Tatigian poses for a photograph circa 1946. Tatigian, a World War II veteran, has served the U.S. Navy for nearly 70 years.**

If you have worked at NAVSEA for any length of time, there is no doubt that you have heard the name Mr. Tatigian. Sarkis Tatigian’s reputation usually precedes him because of his impressive length of service to the U.S. Navy; 69 years to be exact. Tatigian, the associate director in the Small-Business Programs office, has spent most of his 69 years on the civil service side, but he kicked off his Navy career in 1942.

“I began my career as a junior radio inspector in July of 1942 at the Naval Aircraft Factory in the Philadelphia Navy Yard,” said Tatigian.

## SPECIAL OFFERS FOR VETERANS

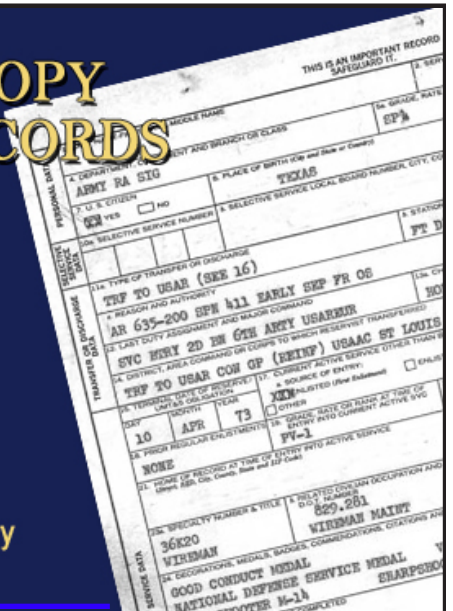
A number of restaurants, theme parks and other retailers are offering free meals, reduced admission and military discounts to honor veterans and active-duty service members during the week of Nov. 7.

For more information, visit [https://navsea.portal.navy.mil/Lists/2011AH/Attachments/341/70458866-Veterans-Day\[1\].pdf](https://navsea.portal.navy.mil/Lists/2011AH/Attachments/341/70458866-Veterans-Day[1].pdf)

## HOW TO GET A COPY OF MILITARY RECORDS

Military personnel records can be used for proving military service, or as a valuable tool in genealogical research. Most veterans and their next-of-kin can obtain free copies of their DD Form 214 (Report of Separation) and other military and medical records.

For more information, visit [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/)



# DPMO WORKS TO BRING EVERYONE HOME

Among the many promises made to American forces when deploying is that none will be left behind. Working to keep that promise is the Department of Defense Prisoner of War and Missing Personnel Office.

A secretariat level office based in the Pentagon, the DPMO is responsible for managing the efforts of the men and women working to recover the remains of the more than 83,000 Americans still missing from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, the 1991 Gulf War, and the most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We will never give up the search for those who are held as prisoners of war or have gone missing under our country’s flag,” said U.S. President Barack Obama in his proclamation in support of the National POW/MIA Day on Sept. 16. “We honor their sacrifice, and we must care for their families and pursue the fullest possible accounting for all missing members of our armed forces. Together, we must serve our nation’s patriots as well as they have served us by supporting them

when they come home, and by carrying on the legacy of those who do not. This is a promise we keep for our fallen, for our veterans past and present, and for all those whose loved ones have not returned from the battlefield.”

Comprised of experts in archival research, intelligence collection and analysis, field investigations and recoveries, and scientific analysis, members of the DPMO and their various worldwide field activities focus on both recovery of still living, but missing, U.S. service members, as well as accounting for those not recovered at the conclusion of hostilities.

The personnel recovery mission revolves around ensuring service members are prepared and equipped for survival, evasion and potential captivity should they become separated from friendly forces. DPMO works with the individual services and combatant commands to address any equipment and training requirements, and collaborates with foreign governments to improve recovery efforts.

When American personnel remain

captive, missing, or otherwise unaccounted-for, DPMO becomes responsible for determining the fate of the missing and where possible, recovering them alive, or recovering and identifying the remains of the dead. This includes leading international negotiations for access to sites and archives, as well as collaboration with non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, family groups, veterans’ organizations and individual researchers. Throughout the accounting process, DPMO meets monthly with the families of missing personnel to keep them updated. More than 60 U.S. service members have been accounted for in the last year.

Though DPMO manages the recovery and accounting programs, the individual services and the State Department maintain service casualty offices to help family members of the missing work through the process. To contact these offices, and for more information on missing Americans, visit [www.dtic.mil/dpmo/contact/index.htm](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/contact/index.htm).

## JPAC: ON A MISSION FOR THE MISSING



DPMO works closely with the U.S. Pacific Command Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, an agency responsible for tactical-level research, analysis, investigation and site evacuation relating to those unaccounted for from past conflicts. (Above left) Sgt. Lauren Shaw, Sgt. Byron Long and Tech. Sgt. China Mills, recovery members assigned to JPAC, collect dirt to be screened for possible remains at an excavation site in Ha Tinh, Socialist Republic of Vietnam. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 John M. Hageman. (Above right) Chief Petty Officer Jerrad Monagan, assigned to the JPAC, screens excavated dirt for evidence with a local Laos worker in Khammouan, Laos. Monagan is part of an 11-person team, searching for evidence of two Americans lost in the Vietnam War. There are more than 83,000 Americans unaccounted for from World War II through the Gulf War. U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Nina Hughes.



# FOCUS ON SERVICE: VANCE BRAHOSKY



Vance Brahosky is the deputy major program manager for International and Foreign Military Sales programs within NAVSEA's Program Executive Office for Integrated Warfare Systems. He, like many other employees here at NAVSEA, traded in a uniform in an armed force for a suit and tie.

Brahosky began his Navy career with the Navy's Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Penn State University in 1981. Upon graduating with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1985, he received orders to USS John A. Moore (FFG 19) in San Diego, where he completed his initial sea tour. After four years in the Pacific Fleet, he reported to the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, Calif., where he graduated in the summer of 1992 with a master's degree in electrical engineering.

"After coming off the John A. Moore in 1989, I transitioned from surface warfare to the engineering duty officer community because I realized that although fleet operational work was fun and interesting, my real love was always with combat systems engineering," said Brahosky. "The engineering community afforded me a greater opportunity to be exposed to the engineering involved in developing, testing and fielding of our Navy's complex combat systems in our warships."

From there, Brahosky reported to the Ship Repairs Facility in Yokosuka, Japan where he completed his EDO qualifying shipyard tour from 1992 to 1995. There, he was exposed to the business of planning and executing modernization and upgrades for the Aegis combat and weapons systems and worked closely with many of his counterparts in the Japanese navy. His experience working with the Japanese would prove valuable as he would then report to the Aegis Air Dominance department at NSWC Port Hueneme and subsequently return to work with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force.

"I spent a year as essentially part of ship's company in the third Aegis destroyer in the Japanese fleet, JDS Myoko (DDG 175), taking this ship from the new construction shipyard all the way through her Combat System Ship Qualification Trials, as her U.S.

Navy-assigned project officer," he said.

During that time, Myoko passed through northern Pacific waters en route from Japan to Pearl Harbor, an area of significance to the Japanese for its relationship to World War II's Battle of Midway. The tradition in the Japanese navy is to stop a ship when traversing waters of historical significance to conduct a solemn ceremony commemorating the events of that engagement.

"I asked Myoko's commanding officer if I could be part of their ceremony honoring the sacrifice and lives lost in the American Navy during this battle and to present a memorial wreath of flowers," Brahosky said.

The commanding officer originally rejected his idea.

"No other Aegis Japanese ship had ever had an American be a part of the ceremony, but they eventually agreed," Brahosky said. "Being able to represent the Navy on a Japanese ship at the site of the Battle of Midway was certainly one of the highlights of my career."

Brahosky went on to become a civil servant, and served in the Naval Reserve for 12 more years. He has been a civil servant for nearly 13 years now.



**Vance Brahosky with Capt. Yasui, commanding officer of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force's JDS Myoko (DDG 175) during a Battle of Midway Ceremony on Nov. 2, 1996. Brahosky was the first member of the U.S. Navy permitted to participate in a Japanese ceremony commemorating the lives lost during the battle.**

# VA OFFERS BENEFITS, SERVICES FOR VETERANS, BENEFICIARIES

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides compensation and pension benefits to 4 million veterans and beneficiaries each year, including disability, education and training, vocational rehabilitation and employment, home loan guaranty, dependent and survivor benefits, medical treatment, life insurance and burial benefits.

In FY 2010, the VA was the largest integrated health care system in America and processed more than 975,000 disability claims.

You may be eligible for VA benefits if you are a veteran or veteran's dependent; surviving spouse, child or parent of a deceased veteran; uniformed service member; or present or former reservist or National Guard member.

The VA offers several ways to apply for benefits:

## The Pre-Discharge Program

This is a joint VA and Department of Defense program that allows service members the opportunity to file claims for disability compensation up to 180 days prior to separation or retirement from active duty or full time National Guard or Reserve duty. For more information, visit [www.vba.va.gov/predischarge/index.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/predischarge/index.htm).

## The Veterans On-line Application

This is an official VA web site that enables service members, veterans and their beneficiaries, and other designated individuals to apply for benefits. [https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal?\\_nfpb=true&\\_portlet.async=false&\\_pageLabel=ebenefits\\_myeb\\_vonappl](https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal?_nfpb=true&_portlet.async=false&_pageLabel=ebenefits_myeb_vonappl).

## Apply at a Local Regional Office

[Regional offices](#) assist with filling out forms and answering general service questions.

Popular benefits and services topics include:

### Disability Benefits

- Compensation - VA can pay you monthly compensation if you are at least 10% disabled as a result of your military service.
- Pension - VA can pay you a pension if you are a wartime veteran with limited

income and you are permanently and totally disabled or are 65 or older.

### Medical Treatment

- Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services
- Domiciliary, nursing home, and community-based residential care
- Specialized health care for women veterans
- Combat Veterans - VA provides free health care for veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998, for any illness possibly related to their service in that theater. Time Limits - You have five years from date of discharge from active duty, if you were discharged from active duty on or after Jan. 28, 2003. You have until Jan. 27, 2011, if you were discharged from active duty before Jan. 28, 2003, and were not enrolled as of Jan. 28, 2008.

### Home Loan Guaranty

VA guarantees loans to eligible service members, veterans, reservists, and certain surviving spouses to purchase a home, condominium or manufactured home, and for refinancing purposes. The loans are actually made by private lenders but the VA guaranty generally means the lender will not require any down payment.

### Life Insurance

Veterans' Group Life Insurance is lifetime renewable term life insurance for veterans. It is available in \$10,000 increments up to \$400,000 but not for more than the amount of SGLI coverage you had

in force at the time of your separation from service.

Premiums are age-based and if you apply within 120 days following separation, no health questions are asked. Thereafter, you have one year to apply but must be in good health.

### Education and Training

• Montgomery GI Bill. Persons who first entered active duty after June 30, 1985, and contributed to an education fund are generally eligible. Some Vietnam Era veterans and certain veterans separated under special programs are also eligible. The bill also includes a program for certain reservists and National Guard members.

• Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP/Chapter 1607) is available to persons who were activated under Federal authority for a contingency operation and served 90 continuous days or more after Sept. 11, 2001

• Post-9/11 GI Bill. Available to those who served on or after Sept. 11, 2001. It pays tuition and fees up to the most expensive, public, in-state undergraduate program rate, provides a monthly housing allowance, and a stipend for books and supplies. It also provides an option for service members to transfer benefits to a spouse or child.

For additional information on the Department of Veterans Affairs: <http://www.va.gov/>.

## VA BENEFITS BOOKLET

Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces may be eligible for a broad range of programs and services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions, while certain VA benefits require service during wartime.

For more information, view the 2011 Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors at [www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)





# ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME: A HOME FOR HEROES

Following the Mexican-American War, a group led by Gen. Winfield Scott, Maj. Robert Anderson and then-Secretary of State Jefferson Davis set out to provide a secure and honorable place for retirement of homeless and disabled war veterans. The project came to fruition in 1851 when an act of Congress established the Soldier's Home in northeast Washington, D.C.

Now known as the Armed Forces Retirement Home, the project operates two retirement homes for American military veterans—the previously mentioned home in D.C. and a home in Gulfport, Miss.

Nearly 1,600 veterans currently reside at the AFRH, representing every war from World War I through Desert Storm. Nearly 93 percent of the residents retired with 20 or more years in the military, and 97 percent served in a war theater. Their average age is 76.

At the AFRH are residents who:

- Survived the Bataan Death March
- Experienced the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor, Midway and Guadalcanal
- Fought during the invasions of Normandy, Iwo Jima and Okinawa
- Spent years as U.S. POWs in Japan, Germany and Korea
- Flew helicopter combat missions in Vietnam
- Fought from Pusan to the Yalu and back in rugged Korean terrain



*Retired Master Chief James Webster*

## AFRH - DC

The AFRH Washington campus sits on 272 acres of rolling hills and is just minutes from the White House, the U.S. Capitol and other historic landmarks.

The campus offers everything for residents' daily needs, and is comprised of more than 400 private rooms for



independent living. The rooms are equipped for cable television and telephones. The facility also offers banks, chapels, a convenience store, post office, laundry facilities, a barber shop, beauty salon, dining room, and 24-hour security and staff presence.

Residents have access to several quality of life features, including a nine-hole golf course, two fishing ponds, a bowling alley, and a professionally-equipped fitness center. Residents are also offered bus tours to area attractions, special events and other activities.

“If you find yourself with nothing to do here, it’s your own fault,” said retired Master Chief James Webster, a 27-year Navy veteran and foreman of the facility’s woodworking shop.

All of the residents are free to come and go as they please. Off-campus time is spent visiting family and enjoying everything the metropolitan D.C. area has to offer.

“You can’t beat the location,” said retired Senior Chief Neil Ferguson. “There is always somewhere to go and something to see.”

## Eligibility

To be eligible to become a resident of AFRH, a person must have served as a member of the armed forces for 20 years, with less than half of that service as a commissioned officer, and have received an honorable discharge. Also eligible are persons who are determined under rules prescribed by the chief operating officer to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of a service-connected disability

incurred in the line of duty, or persons who served in a women’s component of the armed forces before June 12, 1948, and are determined under rules prescribed by the chief operating officer to be eligible for admission because of compelling personal circumstances.

At the time of admission, applicants must be able to live independently. If increased health care is needed after being admitted, assisted living and long-term care are available at both campuses.

Married couples are welcome at AFRH, but both must be eligible in their own right.

A person who has been convicted of a felony or is not free of drug, alcohol, or psychiatric problems is ineligible to become a resident.

For more information on AFRH, visit <https://www.afrh.gov/afrh/afrhhohtm>.

## BE A VOLUNTEER AT AFRH

Interested in giving back? Volunteers get involved in all aspects of activities at the Armed Forces Retirement Home, whether it’s lending a hand scooping at an ice cream social, playing a game of baseball with the “Over the Eighties” team, or teaching a class on yoga or computers.

Volunteer opportunities are available both weekdays and weekends.

For more information on becoming an AFRH volunteer, visit [www.afrh.gov/afrh/team/vol/volunteer.htm](http://www.afrh.gov/afrh/team/vol/volunteer.htm)



# FINAL PLACE OF REST FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

The summer of 1862 was the second summer of a bloody war that few believed would last more than several months. Thousands had died at places like Wilson's Creek, Bull Run, Shiloh, and Fort Donelson. On July 17 of that year, Congress enacted legislation authorizing the President to purchase cemetery grounds to be used as national cemeteries "for soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country."

Fourteen cemeteries were established that first year, including one in Sharpsburg, Md., where 4,476 Union soldiers were laid to rest after a single day of the Battle of Antietam. By 1870, the remains of nearly 300,000 Union dead had been buried in 73 national cemeteries. Most of the cemeteries were located in the southeast, near the battlefields and campgrounds of the Civil War. After the war, Army crews scoured the countryside to locate the remains of soldiers who had died in battle. They were buried with honor in the new national cemeteries.

The National Cemetery Administration has evolved slowly since the initial period, and all honorably discharged veterans became eligible for burial in 1873.

Today, the National Cemetery Administration continues to honor veterans and their families with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate

their service and sacrifice to our nation in 147 national cemeteries.

The Veterans Administration, through its National Cemetery Administration, administers 131 of them. Two — Arlington and the Soldier's Home — remain administered by the Army; and 14 are maintained by the Department of the Interior.

More than 3.7 million people, including veterans of every war and conflict—from the Revolutionary War to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan—are honored with burial in national cemeteries. More than 19,000 acres of land from Hawaii to Maine, and from Alaska to Puerto Rico are devoted to the memorialization of those who served this nation.

While the VA does not make funeral arrangements or perform cremations, it provides a gravesite; opens the grave; provides a graveliner, headstone/marker, a Presidential Memorial Certificate, a U.S. Flag; closes the grave; and perpetually cares for the resting site at no cost to the veteran's family.

For information on national and state veterans cemeteries, visit [www.cem.va.gov/cems/listcem.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/listcem.asp). For more history on national cemeteries, visit <http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/hist/history.asp>.

For information on veterans' burial benefits, visit [www.cem.va.gov/](http://www.cem.va.gov/).

## HONORING THOSE LOST OVERSEAS



**Normandy American Cemetery sits on a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach and the English Channel, east of St. Laurent-sur-Mer and northwest of Bayeux in Colleville-sur-Mer, 170 miles west of Paris.**

The American Battle Monuments Commission was established by Congress in 1923 to commemorate the service, achievements, and sacrifice of U.S. Armed Forces where they have served overseas since 1917, and within the United States when directed by public law.

The Commission maintains several databases, including:

- Those interred at the American World War I and World War II cemeteries overseas.

- The Missing in Action from World War I and World War II who are memorialized on Tablets of the Missing within the cemeteries and on three memorials in the United States.

- Those killed worldwide during the Korean War.

- War dead and veterans of the Mexican War, Civil War and Spanish-American War who are buried at the ABMC cemeteries in Corozal, Panama, and Mexico City.

- The Missing in Action of the Vietnam War memorialized at the Honolulu Memorial.

- All interments at Corozal, including civilians who built and operated the Panama Canal.

These databases and listings may be searched at <http://www.abmc.gov/wardead/index.php>.



**The 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, also known as The Old Guard, created in 1794 is the oldest active Infantry Regiment in the U.S. Army. The regiment conducts memorial affairs to honor fallen comrades, and on order, conducts defense support of civil authorities in the National Capitol Region. U.S. Army photo by J.D. Leopold.**

# NAVSEA WOUNDED WARRIOR HIRING SUCCESSSES EXTEND NATIONWIDE

NAVSEA has established itself as a leader helping service-disabled veterans transfer from military to civilian service. The command has increased its service-disabled veteran hires from 84 in 2009 to 434 in 2011. Since 2010, NAVSEA has hired 792 of the Department of the Navy's more than 1,000 service disabled veterans.

NAVSEA attributes its employment success to its hiring approach.

"Existing civilian hiring procedures do not connect wounded warriors to jobs," said Vice Adm. Kevin McCoy, commander NAVSEA. "It is not enough to pull from a list of qualified names. Rather, hiring officials have to be where warfighters are, rather than waiting for them to come to you."

NAVSEA's success in recruiting service-disabled veterans starts with counselors at military hospitals who educate service members on training and education opportunities and potential employment before they leave the service. Identifying interested veterans and connecting them to NAVSEA personnel before they separate from active duty eases their transition to the civilian work force.

"Working with veterans while they undergo treatment gives them something to look forward to, and us the opportunity to help them before they leave the service,"

said Cmdr. Dave McAfee, NAVSEA wounded warrior program manager.

A veteran's successful transition to the work force also requires meaningful employment. Through memorandums of agreement and understanding, partnerships between NAVSEA and the U.S. Army and Marine Corps increase veteran opportunities by leveraging the services' employment resources across the nation.

"These partnerships will provide more opportunities for more wounded warriors throughout America," said McAfee.

NAVSEA's contracting pipeline represents another opportunity for service-disabled veterans to gain employment within the command or federal government. NAVSEA contracting officers serve as tutors and coordinate online access for contracting classes as veterans pursue a contracting specialist or intern position.

NAVSEA-led initiatives and hiring practices now extend to other organizations. Both Naval Air Systems Command and Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command have embraced NAVSEA's approach to goal setting and accountability. Last fiscal year, NAVAIR hired 155 service-disabled veterans, including eight wounded warrior interns. Meanwhile, SPAWAR hired 11 wounded warriors and two interns.

To enhance wounded warrior retention, NAVSEA established the Mentor, Assist, Train to Excel and Support (MATES) initiative in August. At NAVSEA, service-disabled veteran hires team with other veterans for continued support as they continue their transition.

"MATES is an important part of NAVSEA's life cycle approach to supporting our veterans. Whether its recruiting, hiring, training, or retaining veterans, our commitment to them endures," said McAfee.

## WOUNDED WARRIOR CONFERENCE

Leaders, human resource professionals, or personnel interested in learning first-hand about recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining wounded warriors can attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wounded Warrior Hiring and Support Conference, Wednesday, Nov. 9, and Thursday, Nov. 10, at the Sheraton Premiere in Vienna, Va.

Register at [www.public.navy.mil/donaa/Pages/woundedwarrior.aspx](http://www.public.navy.mil/donaa/Pages/woundedwarrior.aspx) through Nov. 6. Conference "walk-ins" may also register at the site.

For conference questions, contact [nssc\\_wwarriorhiring@navy.mil](mailto:nssc_wwarriorhiring@navy.mil).



(Above left) Sylvester Cesar joined NAVSEA from Walter Reed Army Medical Center out of the wounded warrior program. Cesar is an acquisition logistics specialist for Program Executive Office Littoral Combat Ship. (Above right) Wounded Warrior and former U.S. Marine Mark Gwathmey is a disaster management specialist at NAVSEA Headquarters and provides IT and logistics support for emergency operations centers. In FY11, NAVSEA hired 434 service-disabled veterans throughout the command. U.S. Navy photos.