



REFER YOUR VETERAN FRIENDS TO NLVAC

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New London Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

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Veterans Update – Issue 09-2020

New London Veterans Affairs office open –

Our new office is now open for business. Our office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00AM to 1:00PM. **Presently we are not seeing veterans or dependents in the office until the pandemic restrictions have been lifted.** We are currently working from home and ready to respond to your phone or email inquiries. Whatever your question or concerns do not hesitate to let us help you.

In New London Veterans Affairs Newsletters, we'll bring you the latest VA and military information you can use. Questions regarding articles shown can be addressed to dva@newlondonct.org.

VA Prescription Refills

Four Ways to Do It During the Pandemic

As COVID-19 spreads, people who regularly take prescription drugs for chronic conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure may be wondering what will happen with their refills. VA wants you to know we're working hard to make sure you get your prescriptions on time, and when you need them. They ask that you request refills of your VA Prescriptions as soon as possible. VA will process your refill request, and have it sent to you before you're scheduled to run out.

How do Veterans request refills of their prescriptions?

To prevent waste and reduce the risk that unneeded medications could fall into the wrong hands, VA does not automatically refill medications. To receive a medication refill authorized by your VA prescriber, you must actively request a refill using one of the methods described below:

ONLINE WITH [MY HEALTHEVET](#)

You can request refills of your refillable VA-issued prescriptions, track VA prescription deliveries, view VA prescription history online.

THE NEW [RX REFILL MOBILE APP](#):

You can request refills of your refillable VA-issued prescriptions, track VA prescription deliveries, view VA prescription history from the convenience of your mobile device.

TELEPHONE CALL:

Most VA Pharmacies have automated telephone refill lines. You can find the phone number of your local VA Pharmacy on your prescription label. To order refills by phone, you will need the prescription number (shown as RX # on the prescription label) and your Social Security Number. For many prescriptions that are no longer refillable, this automated system may allow you to send a request for more of this medication to be sent to you. For some medications, the healthcare team will need to contact you first.

BY MAIL:

VA Pharmacy provides [are fill request form](#) with each prescription filled. To refill by mail, please complete the request form and mail it to your VA pharmacy at the address listed on the paperwork that arrives with your prescription. The COVID-19 situation is changing fast. Try not to forget to take your medications or refill your prescriptions. Not having certain medications could cause health problems that require medical attention, putting you at risk of exposure with a facility visit. Veterans who forget to re-order their medications in time have three options. You can contact your VA medical center pharmacy, call the phone number on the prescription label, or use My HealthVet's [Secure Messaging](#) (sign in required) to get in touch with your health care team, especially if your prescription is no longer refillable. As a last resort, you may visit your VA pharmacy in person to request a refill. You may be subject to screening before entering the facility. You might also have a very long wait to have your

prescription refilled. Visiting in person can unnecessarily put you and others at risk of infection. Delivery times can be affected by weather and the COVID-19 pandemic. Using the Track Delivery feature on MyHealthVet (sign in required), you can obtain the tracking number in use by either the U.S. Postal Service or UPS. Keeping yourself healthy is one of the best ways to defend yourself against COVID-19. VA knows that this can be a stressful time for Veterans, make sure you're doing everything you can to keep your immune system strong and healthy. [Source: VA News | August 12, 2020]

BUY A BRICK PROGRAM

Become a permanent part of Williams Park Memorial by purchasing an inscribed brick in honor of any Veteran. This enduring legacy is a wonderful way to memorialize or honor someone with a meaningful gift. Your brick will be installed among others already installed in the area in front of the (WWII, Korean, Vietnam) Veterans Memorial. Your donation for a 4x8 brick is \$50 and for a 8x8 brick is \$75.00 and is guaranteed for life. The cost covers the engraving and installation. All proceeds from the sale of these bricks go directly back into the Walk of Honor project.

The 8X8 brick can also have a (Military) logo engraved for an additional fee of \$5.00. You can select a Stock logo by going to <https://www.bricksrus.com/products/symbols/>. If you choose a Custom (Military) logo can be added for a one-time \$50.00 set up fee and the \$5.00 engraving fee.

Applications can be obtained by calling New London Veterans Affairs (860) 440-6691 or emailing your request to dva@newlondonct.org.

Connecticut Veterans Benefits and Discounts – [Click on the link below](#)

<http://frabr245.org/Vet%20State%20Benefits%20-%20CO%202020.pdf>

* Military History *

WWII Hiroshima Bombing 75th Anniversary -

Enola Gay carried 12 men, hope and the world's deadliest weapon. On Aug. 6, 1945, 75 years ago, no one was sure how Special Bombing Mission No. 13, the world's first

atomic attack, would go. Would it end in disaster for the crew in Japan? Eight downed American airmen had been beheaded by the Japanese a few weeks before. Would it end in the obliteration of Hiroshima? Would the overweight airplane with the crazy call sign even get off the runway? Would the crew have need for the cyanide? The giant silver bomber roared along the runway on Tinian Island in the darkness, passing the firetrucks and ambulances parked every 50 feet, struggling to pick up speed. "Dimples Eight Two" weighed 150,000 pounds, and with fuel for the long flight to Hiroshima, 12 men on board, and a five-ton uranium bomb in the bay, the B-29 was 15,000 pounds overweight. The pilot, Col. Paul W. Tibbets Jr., 30, had handpicked the airplane on the assembly line in Nebraska three months before and had just had his mother's name, "Enola Gay," painted in blackletters on the nose.

[Source: The Washington Post | Michael E. Ruane | August 6, 2020]

VA Caregiver Program

Final 1 OCT PCAFC Regulation Posted

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on 31 JUL published its final regulation to improve and expand the VA [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers \(PCAFC\)](#) with the final regulation going into effect on 1OCT. Under the final regulation, PCAFC will include [eligible](#) Veterans that have a single or combined service-connected disability rating by VA of 70% or higher, regardless of whether it resulted from an injury, illness or disease. This is a notable change to the definition of serious injury from the current regulations, among other improvements aimed at standardizing the PCAFC and improving transparency in the program. [Expansion](#) of VA's PCAFC to eligible Veterans of earlier eras will occur in two phases. The first phase will begin October 2020 and will include eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty in the active, military, naval or air service on or before May 7, 1975. Phase two will go into effect two years later and include eligible Veterans of all eras.

"The expanded regulation addresses the complexity and expense of keeping Veterans at home with their families who provide personalized care," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "This will allow our most vulnerable Veterans to stay with their loved ones for as long as possible. Expanding the program and eligibility for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers ensures we can continue to meet the changing needs of America's Veterans and their caregivers."

Additionally, the new regulation will change the PCAFC [stipend payment methodology](#), define new procedures for

revocation and discharge, and include certain advance notice requirements aimed at improving communication between VA and PCAFC participants as well as include information for [current program participants](#).

VA is also standardizing operating procedures for the Caregiver Support Program, providing new training for staff and caregivers, and boosting operational capacity by hiring additional staff. With this expansion, Primary Family Caregivers in PCAFC will also have access to financial planning and legal services. VA is also working to fully implement the new information technology system required by the VA MISSION Act of 2018 by October 2020.

VA's Caregiver Support Program offers support services for caregivers including training, peer mentoring, respite care, a telephone support line, and self-care courses for caregivers of covered Veterans enrolled in VA health care who need personal care services. Caregivers can visit VA Caregiver support website <https://www.caregiver.va.gov> or call the Caregiver Support Line at 855-260-3274 for questions. The final regulation can be found [here](#). If necessary, search for RIN 2900-AQ48, Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Improvements and Amendments under the VA MISSION Act of 2018. [Source: VVA Web Weekly | July 31, 2020]

VA to award more than \$400 million in grants to end Veteran homelessness

- Posted on August 8, 2020
- by [Donnie La Curan](#)
- in [Veteran News](#)

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it will begin awarding more than \$400 million in grants under the [Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program](#) (SSVF) to 266 non-profit organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands on Oct. 1 of this year.

SSVF funding provides thousands of low-income Veteran families around the nation with access to case management and other assistance to rapidly re-house Veterans who become homeless or prevent Veterans from becoming homeless.

"Helping Veterans exit homelessness and remain in stable housing is more important now than ever," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "The Supportive Services for

Veteran Families Program remains a vital resource to ensure that every Veteran has a safe and stable place to call home, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic."

In fiscal year (FY) 2019, SSVF served 105,156 individuals, including 70,524 Veterans and 20,608 children. As a result of these and other efforts, Veteran homelessness has been cut in half since 2010's launch of the [Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#). Since then, VA's homelessness programs and targeted housing vouchers provided by the [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) have placed hundreds of thousands of Veterans and their family members into permanent housing or helped to prevent them from being homeless. This year's grant recipients competed for funding under a Notice of Fund Availability published Dec. 5, 2019. The funding will support SSVF services in fiscal year 2021 which begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30, 2021.

Visit [VA homeless SSVF](#) to view the list of 2020 grantees and to learn more about the program.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

New London Veterans Affairs meets on the third Thursday each month. Ordinarily we would meet in the library at the New London Senior Center at 7:00PM. However, due to the COVID19 pandemic we are conducting our meeting on ZOOM.

If you would like to sit-in on our ZOOM meetings, you can email or call our office for the link to logon to the meeting room. It is easy and free. We encourage your participation. Learn what's going on at New London Veterans Affairs. ■

"Serving those who Served"

