

Coalition of Veterans Organizations



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773.243.2335 • [info@CoalitionofVets.org](mailto:info@CoalitionofVets.org) • [www.CoalitionofVets.org](http://www.CoalitionofVets.org)

*Member Organizations:*

24th Infantry Regiment  
Buffalo Soldiers  
Chicago Chapter

555th Parachute  
Infantry Association  
"Triple Nickle"  
Chicago Chapter

American Legion  
Dorie Miller Post 915

American Legion  
Harold Washington  
Post 1987

Blind Veterans  
Association  
Chicago Chapter

Disabled American  
Veterans  
Chicago Chapter 6

Montford Point Marine  
Association  
Chicago Chapter

Muslim American  
Veterans Association  
Chicago Chapter

National Women  
Veterans United

Veterans of  
Foreign Wars  
Major Harris Post 2024

Veterans for Peace  
Chicago Chapter

Veterans for Unification

Veterans Strike Force

Vietnam Veterans  
of America  
Chapter 311

VetNet

## Coalition of Veterans Organizations

# CVO

*Leave No  
Veteran Behind*

## Come out for CVO's 2015 Awards Luncheon

Fundraiser Party, Buffet, Show, Awards and Raffle for the  
**Coalition of Veterans Organizations**

**When:** Saturday, May 2nd, 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM

**Where:** Japan Grill Buffet, 4817-4827 W 76th St. (76th & Cicero) in Burbank, IL

### All You Can Eat!

14 Huge Buffet Bars! Over 450 Items Available! Sushi Bar, Chinese, Japanese,  
American & Mexican Cuisine



A Variety of Rhythm & Blues,  
Broadway and Classic Music by

## The Three of Us

**Raffle!!**

**How Much: All this for just \$30 a ticket donation!!**

Buy Tickets online at [www.CoalitionofVets.org](http://www.CoalitionofVets.org)!



**Food — Fun — Music —  
Awards — Prizes — and  
much, much more...  
Come & Enjoy!!**



### COOK COUNTY MILITARY AND VETERANS DISCOUNT CARD

You have probably heard about the Cook County Military and Veterans Discount Card (MVDC) that was rolled out on Veterans Day, 2014, but you may not know much about it, so here's the scoop:

This photo ID card enables you to get discounts at various establishments in Cook County. For those without a VA Card, it also serves to identify you as a veteran, since there is no such thing as a Veteran ID Card from the Federal Government. Getting the card is very easy, but you must apply for it in person at the Veteran Services Office at the Cook County Recorder of Deeds Office, 118 N. Clark St., Suite 230, Chicago, IL 60602-1387. This office is at the east end of the County Building (essentially the same building as City Hall). You will see Brian M. Cross, the Veteran Services Officer, and show him your VA Card (if you have one) or your discharge papers. Hopefully, you have already filed your discharge papers with that office, in which case, there is no need to show them. After the paperwork is completed, Brian will take your picture (using the camera on his computer) and give you your card.

(If you have not yet filed your discharge papers with that office, you may do so through Brian at no charge. You will then be given a certificate of recognition from that office.)

The list of participating agencies, their addresses/phone numbers, and description of the discounts, may be found at: <http://cookrecorder.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/merchantdirectory122314.pdf>. You may not be interested in what you see now, but realize that this is a work in progress that has just recently started. New businesses are being added, and the Merchant Directory is updated as necessary. If you have any suggestions on companies (including events, concerts, shows, etc.) that should be added, contact Brian Cross, [brian.cross@CookCountyIL.gov](mailto:brian.cross@CookCountyIL.gov), 312-603-5788.





# SAVE THE DATE



Saturday, March 21, 2015

Marriott Midway Hotel

6520 S. Cicero  
Chicago, IL 60638

11am - 4pm

**FREE Women Veterans Luncheon Conference**

(Homelessness, Peer to Peer Support, VA Benefits, Entrepreneurship  
Military/Veteran Family Engagement)

6pm - 12am


**Awards Gala \$65 per person**

(Discount Tickets for women Veterans and  
service women attending Conference and Gala)


RSVP for Conference and/or Gala @ [Vet2crump@gmail.com](mailto:Vet2crump@gmail.com) or (312) 458-9130

The Women Veterans Conference is made possible through the generous donation of the  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Staff Holiday Award.


THE NATIONAL WOMEN VETERANS UNITED (NWVU)  
*One Voice One Vision*



Ethel Crowder  
WWII - Army WAC




Estelle Rosania  
WWII - Army WAC




Fannie Farmer  
WWII - Army WAC

**10th Year Anniversary**

**Guest Speakers**




Honorable Judge Coral Wong Pietsch  
BG (Ret) US Army




Colonel (Ret) James H. Pietsch, JD  
US Army


**Women Veterans**  
**"Continuing Our Legacy of Service"**  
*Honoring Women Veterans Past and Present*



Betty Jean Hester  
Korean War - Air Force



Members of NWVU



Miljan Akin  
Korean War - Air Force

*Souvenir AD Pages Available*

Chicago Marriott Midway Hotel - 6520 S. Cicero Chicago, IL

**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, March 21, 2015 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. FREE CONFERENCE

Gala Awards Dinner at 6:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

There is a special Gala Dinner Ticket discount for Women Veterans & Service Women who attend the Conference.

The Conference is free and for Women Veterans & Service Women.....Proof of Military Service is Required!!!

RSVP is Required!!! There are ( 3 ) Ways to RSVP ....

1. Send an E-Mail to [Vet2crump@gmail.com](mailto:Vet2crump@gmail.com)

2. Call (312) 458-9130

3. Use the link below to register

<https://eventbrite.com/event/15485863635/?>

[utm\\_source=eb\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=new\\_event\\_email&utm\\_term=eventurl\\_text](https://eventbrite.com/event/15485863635/?utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=new_event_email&utm_term=eventurl_text)



**To Purchase Gala Dinner Tickets or place an AD in our 10th Anniversary Souvenir Book Contact [Vet2crump@gmail.com](mailto:Vet2crump@gmail.com) or (312) 458-9130**

**Attire: Business Dress**

**Thank you for your consideration and passing it on!  
Rochelle Crump**

**2015 "Women Veterans Continuing Our Legacy of Serving"**

**Catch the Spirit of NWWU in 2014**

**"Educating, Advocating & Motivating Women Veterans**

Rochelle Crump, MS CED, President  
National Women Veterans United (NWWU)  
P. O. Box 20149 Chicago, IL 60620  
E-mail: [Vet2crump@gmail.com](mailto:Vet2crump@gmail.com) - [Ladyvets2@yahoo.com](mailto:Ladyvets2@yahoo.com)  
(312) 458-9130 [www.nwwu.org](http://www.nwwu.org)

#### **WRITE FOR THE CVO NEWSLETTER!**

Submissions to the **CVO** Newsletter should be pertinent to veterans and their families and reflect the membership and mission of **CVO**. We reserve the right to refuse any submission. We may edit submissions but will strive to not change the content. Edited versions will be resent to the submitter for consideration. Articles should be 150 to 170 words in length.

Submit articles to [Newsletter@CoalitionofVets.org](mailto:Newsletter@CoalitionofVets.org) or mail to:

#### **CVO**

1658 N Milwaukee Ave, Box 365  
Chicago, IL 60647

Our website is [www.CoalitionofVets.org](http://www.CoalitionofVets.org) and the CVO Newsletter can be downloaded there. If you want to clarify your preference for an email version or a hard copy, please email us at [Newsletter@CoalitionofVets.org](mailto:Newsletter@CoalitionofVets.org) stating your preference.

## WILL YOU GET A DONOR ORGAN IF YOU EVER NEED ONE?

By Larry Nazimek

One of the primary concerns of CVO is healthcare, but an item of healthcare that we seldom think about is that of organ transplantation. Certainly, the VA newsletters don't discuss the issue. If your doctor told you that you needed an organ, such as a kidney, do you think that you would get one?

If you need an organ, you are put on a waiting list, and your position on that list is determined by several factors, but your status as a veteran is not one of them. In addition, even though you may have signed on to have your organs donated upon your death, you have no advantage over the person who hasn't. This is unfair. About half of donor organs go to people who, through selfishness or indifference, had not signed on. They were unwilling to have their organs donated upon their death, but they will still accept one from someone who had agreed to donate. It's like getting a rebate without having bought the product.

There is a very serious shortage of donor organs, so if you are put on the list, you will probably die before getting one, as do some 7,000 Americans (one every 75 minutes) annually. The shortage is, unfortunately, only getting worse. There are over 123,000 people currently on the waiting list, and approx. 50,000 (one every 10 minutes) will be added this year. The waiting list is growing at about 5 times the rate of organ donation. When you hear an announcement from Life source that there is a critical shortage of blood, it only means that the shortage will cause elective surgeries to be postponed, but when it comes to the shortage of donor organs, people ARE DYING.

There are various groups who ask people to sign on as donors, but they are asking them to do so for altruistic reasons, that is, because it's the right thing to do, just like donating blood. Unfortunately, as we have seen, while this method has encouraged many people to sign on as donors, it hasn't motivated enough of them. If the system were to be changed so as to give donors preference, then more people would be motivated to become donors.

The Life Sharers organization ([www.lifesharers.org](http://www.lifesharers.org)) feels that donors should get an advantage over non-donors, if they ever need an organ, but we can't change the system. The group is a non-profit national network of organ donors. We do, however, have a rather unique plan. Members agree, that upon our death, that first preference to our organs should go to the most suitable member who needs them. Naturally, if no member needs them, then they will go to whoever would have received them in the absence of Life Sharers.

It costs nothing to join. If you join, you increase your chances of getting an organ, if you ever need one, and you are increasing the chance of every other member, because it means that there is one more person in the "pool." To join, go to their website or call them at 888-ORGAN-88.

## NINOS HEROES: A SCHOOL NAMED FOR AMERICA'S PAST FOES

**Ninos Heroes Elementary Academic Center**, a Chicago Public School, is located at 8344 S. Commercial Ave., Chicago, IL 60617, 773-535-6694.

**Ninos** Heroes (also spelled "**Heros**") refers to six Mexican military cadets who jumped to their deaths (Some accounts say that all 6 jumped, while others say that 5 died fighting, and only the last one jumped.) from Chapultepec Castle (which they had been ordered to abandon) in Mexico City, rather than surrender to U. S. forces who were attacking the Castle during our Mexican War in 1847. The Castle is a point of interest for both tourists and residents of Mexico City, and there are monuments to the "**Ninos Heros**." This account is a historical fact that can be found in many history and tourist books about Mexico City.

Naming a school for these Mexican cadets makes as much sense as naming a school for the Hitler Youth or teenage suicide bombers who have been killing our troops. Even if they had been on our side, I don't think that those who disobeyed orders and committed suicide are good role models for our youth.

Saying that a request to rename **Ninos** Heroes is anti-Mexican is equivalent to saying that opposition to naming a school for the Hitler Youth would be anti-German. (The Americans of German ancestry who I know would be highly offended if anyone would name a school for the Hitler Youth, because they are patriotic Americans, and they resent any suggestions to the contrary.)

I sincerely doubt if any schools or parks in Mexico have been named for the defenders of the Alamo or for Col. James W. Fannin Jr. and his 342 men who had surrendered to Mexican forces, but were massacred at the order of Gen. Santa Ana on Palm Sunday morning, 3-27-1836, 2 miles south of Goliad, TX.

Why should a public school that be named for those who opposed our forces in wartime?

I feel that this school should be renamed for a member of the U. S. Armed Forces who died in combat in Iraq or Afghanistan, particularly one who was from Illinois. (Unfortunately, there is no lack of such deceased military members.) Since 76.2% of the student body is African-American, it might be appropriate that the person honored be African-American.

I have written to Chicago's Mayors as well as several aldermen, and Board of Education officials, but they simply ignored me.

I wrote a letter-to-the-editor and sent it to several veterans publications, and "Veterans' Voice" picked up the issue and published this story in their November, 2008, issue: <http://www.theveteransvoice.com/Chicago-School.html>.

If you feel that this school should be renamed, then please tell your alderman and any other officials you know. If you would be interested in attending one of the school's Local School Council meetings to present our case, let me know.

**Larry E. Nazimek**  
**2733 N. Monticello Ave.**  
**Chicago, IL 60647-1131**  
**773-772-2633**

## EXTRA Social Security Benefits for Veterans

From: Chicago Marines 1/08/15

To: George Mulvaney

lz4vets@gmail.com

Are you a Retired Veteran or about ready to submit your application for retirement? Then you may be eligible to receive increased benefits during your time in military service. This is Extra, in addition to your standard compensation earned from regular employment. **All you need is your DD-214 form and have Active Duty anytime between the dates of Jan. 1957 through Dec. 31, 2001.**

Please pass this information along to others, coworkers, neighbors and family members especially! Many veterans can get as much as \$1,200 earnings credit per year, to be credited and calculated to your other employment figures at the time of application. **This is a DEMAND Benefit and will only be awarded if you ASK for it! ONLY upon your request, this is NOT an automatic calculated item.**

Drop by your local SSA Office in person with a Copy of your DD-214 after reading this SSA website link for reference:  
<http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

Thanks to our friends and veterans Julianne V & Walter P of the Polish Legion of American Veterans for passing on this important notice for our veterans!

