

*Member Organizations:*

555th Parachute  
Infantry Association  
"Triple Nickle"  
Chicago Chapter

American Legion  
Harold Washington  
Post 1987

Chicago Veterans

Easter Seals

Mexican American  
Veterans Association

Montford Point Marine  
Association  
Chicago Chapter

Muslim American  
Veterans Association

National Women  
Veterans United

Veterans for Peace  
Chicago Chapter

Veterans for Unification

Veterans Strike Force

VetNet

## **CVO NEWSLETTER**

Volume 4, Number 3

July, 2017



### **Chicago Chapter, Veterans For Peace**

#### **2017 VFP Convention in Chicago by Steve Nelson**

Here's an opportunity to support veterans who provide true service to the world by working for peace at home and peace abroad.

VFP's international convention is in Chicago at the Palmer House August 9-13, 2017. A program booklet is being published. Get your organization to place an ad in this booklet! You'll be saying, "Thank You!" to veterans who are standing up for peace and against those who promote war and violence as solutions to conflicts.

Ads are moderately priced, due by July 7, and will go a long way toward showing these courageous veterans that you support them. Details at <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/2017-annual-convention/purchase-ads>.

Get a table for your veterans organization! 25 workshops will be announced June 30.

### **Meet the CVO Executive Committee**



Dr. Willie Mack is the new Chair of CVO and of its Executive Committee.

*con't on next page*

### **Recognize those who deserve recognition**

#### **by Larry Nazimek**

It's only human nature to complain about problems. Because there are problems, real or perceived, hospitals have ombudsmen and patient advocates. Obviously, if all was well, there would probably be no CVO.

We often forget, however, to praise those who do a truly outstanding job for us.

*con't on page 3*

#### **Inside:**

**Taft High School  
Vets Memorial**

**Illinois Blue Book**

**GoFundMe  
Campaign**

**The Case for  
Dental Care for  
Illinois Vets**

**Amazon Smile and  
Donating to CVO**

# Meet the CVO Executive Committee



Larry Nazimek, Vice Chair of CVO and a member of Strike Force and Chicago Veterans.



Dr. Bruce Parry is CVO Treasurer.



Dr. Connie Edwards is the Recording Secretary. Connie is also a member of NWVU.



Christopher LaFayette is a Director of CVO and President of VHEA.



Darryl Howard is a Director of CVO. He's also a member of the 555 PIA.



David Rogers is a Founder and Director of CVO and the head of Vet Net.

Not pictured because we don't have a picture yet: Carlos Luna, Director of CVO and a member of Chicago Vets.

## Join CVO!

We are a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to educating veterans and the public about issues of concern to veterans and their families. We are advocates who work to improve the lives of all veterans and those who depend on them. Join our organization! Visit us at [www.CoalitionofVets.org](http://www.CoalitionofVets.org).



# Recognize those who deserve recognition

*con't from front page*

When we do remember, we may thank the person and tell him that he is doing a great job, but if we would complain to that person's supervisor if there were problems, it is only right to let that person's boss know about the employee's outstanding work.

When an employee (or intern) works at a VA facility, we would route complaints through the Patient Advocate, so the same should be done to convey praise. I have been told by a Patient Advocate that instead of a phone call or email, that a letter, in the form of an attachment to an email, or a letter dropped off at the Patient Advocate's office, is the best way to do this. The Patient Advocate, in turn, will give it to the employee's supervisor, with a copy placed in that employee's personnel file. Such things will then be considered for awards and/or promotions.

We all feel great, and motivated to do a better job, when we get some recognition, so we should recognize those who go the extra mile for us. Such employees should be held up as examples of what we would all like to see.

# CVO GoFundMe Fundraising Campaign Continues

Instead of having a formal fundraiser this year, CVO has decided to use GoFundMe, an online fundraising tool, to raise the money it needs to carry out its core issues and take care of its internal needs.

We will be sending emails around to all our supporters and hope that each and every one of you will be generous and help us reach our goal. Help support CVO!

Our experience is that civilians will support CVO if you tell them this is your veterans organization and ask them to support it by forwarding the GoFundMe email you receive.



The CVO meeting on June 21st.



# Taft High School of Chicago is in the planning stages for a Veterans memorial:

The Taft High School Local School Council at its March 14 (2017) meeting discussed the installation of a veterans memorial on school grounds and the possibility of a new indoor pool.

"If you're a veteran and went to Taft, you're going to have your name on this," Taft principal Mark Grishaber said. The memorial, which will be located on the north side of the school, will include a fountain and a "Taft eagle" overlooking the names, he said.

<http://nadignewspapers.com/2017/03/30/taft-lsc-discusses-memorial-for-veterans-new-indoor-pool/>

We are seeking information about all Veterans who went to Taft.

We are particularly interested in learning about former Taft students who gave their lives in service to our country.

If you are Veteran and went to Taft or know of one please forward the following information to the Taft Foundation:

- Name, year of graduation (or if you didn't actually graduate, dates attended and see below)
- Branch of service, dates served, final rank
- Name of War(s) or Conflict(s) served in.
- Decorations (in particular the Purple Heart and/or those awarded for Valor or Heroism)
- Date Killed in Action or Date of Death if deceased
- Current address, phone number and E-mail address
- Photos are optional

If you are or you know a Veteran who went to Taft, but left Taft early, without graduating, to join the U S Military, and you are a Veteran of WW2, Korea or Vietnam, the State of Illinois will grant that Veteran, his or her high school Diploma.

This State of Illinois Law actually applies to any Veteran who attended any High School in the State of Illinois and who left high school early, without graduating, to join the U S Military.

For details or questions, contact:

Taft High School Foundation  
P O Box 31892  
Chicago, IL 60631-0892

## Illinois Blue Book and Illinois Handbook of Government

For those of you who weren't at this month's meeting, here's a link to the information on the 2015-2016 Illinois Handbook of Government. The 2017-2018 edition is on hold. If it ever becomes available, CVO will order copies for us, as we have done in the past.

### Illinois Handbook of Government

<http://cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/handbook/home.html>

Here's a link to the 2017-2018 Illinois Blue Book that was at this month's meeting:

### Illinois Blue Book

[http://cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/illinois\\_bluebook/home.html](http://cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/illinois_bluebook/home.html)

The Blue Book is an expanded version of the Handbook. Because it's an expensive hard-cover book, we cannot order copies to pass out. If you want one, you will have to request it yourself.

To submit your request, this is a link to their general CONTACT US form:

### Illinois Secretary of State Contact Form

[https://www.ilsos.gov/ContactFormsWeb/secretary\\_contact.jsp](https://www.ilsos.gov/ContactFormsWeb/secretary_contact.jsp)

## Shop Amazon Smile and Donate to CVO

**You shop. Amazon gives.**

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

For more information:

[http://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi\\_aas\\_redirect?ie=UTF8&%2AVersion%2A=1&%2Aentries%2A=0](http://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_aas_redirect?ie=UTF8&%2AVersion%2A=1&%2Aentries%2A=0)

## The Case for Dental Care for Illinois Veterans

by Larry Nazimek

There are many facets to health care, such as cardiology, orthopedics, podiatry, dentistry, etc. One can not say that a person's health care is being met, unless all of these areas are covered. Unfortunately, the Veterans Administration Health Care system disagrees, because it treats dentistry differently than the other areas. While only some veterans are eligible for VA Health Care, only a fraction of those are eligible for dental care.

Vets who get their health care, except for dental care, through the VA, can buy dental insurance (or pay out of pocket), but it is not cheap. Illinois Vets who are not eligible for health care through the VA can get a comprehensive insurance plan at a good price through the State, and because it is all-inclusive, dental care is covered.

Far too many veterans walk around with rotted teeth and other signs of a lack of dental care.

An important part of dental care is the examination for oral cancer, where early detection can mean the difference between life and death.

Those who visit the Dixon Mounds learn that the reason these indigenous peoples had such a low life expectancy was that they died of infections due to their lack of dental care. In other words, dental care is an essential component of health care.

In order to remedy this situation, bills have been introduced in the Illinois General Assembly to provide Illinois Veterans with dental care. The Senate Version, SB 622, was introduced by Sen. Omar Aquino, while Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez introduced HB 1803.

These bills could very well die in committee. What is needed is for a large number of General Assembly members to sign on as cosponsors. Therefore, the Coalition of Veterans Organizations urges all Veterans, and those who care about them, to contact their State Senators and Representatives, and ask them to cosponsor this important legislation.