



HOLLY AREA VETERANS' RESOURCE CENTER

300 EAST ST., HOLLY MI, 48442

NEWSLETTER #22, August, 2023

Holly is a veteran friendly community. We are also a Purple Heart Village.

Summer is here. Enjoy.

Our primary mission is to help and provide resources to veterans and their families.

For more information about the Holly Area Veterans' Resource Center call Joe at 810-348-9960 or Ray at 248-882-1406. We would love to hear from you. If you are coming to the center be aware that there is construction going across from the Richter. Please park back by the Gym.

We are looking for **volunteers** to help us with **outreach** and other projects. We would like to have a presence at more events in the area. We have a banner for the table and plenty of brochures. If you know of events we might attend, tell us when and where. Our goal is to get the word out about our Service Officers and how they help with claims. Basically, you are promoting all of our services and programs. You don't have to be a veteran to volunteer.

Our next monthly board meeting is 8/9/2023 at 1:30 p.m. in the center.

Katrina Berger is a Certified Service Officer for the Vietnam Veterans of America who works out of our office on Monday through Wednesday from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Katrina is a US Navy veteran and isn't part of the VA. Her number is 810-632-8002. Katrina can help veterans from anywhere.

Those interested taking basic computer classes call **Stewart Deroo 315-286-8411**. Classes are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at noon at the Richter Center. The classes are being taught by Rhonda Molman. The classes are free for veterans and their families.

If you have questions about your relative's service such as uniforms and pictures and you don't understand the rank, patches, medals, we are more than happy to meet with you and explain. Adding to your family history is important.

On July 29th, we hosted a Luncheon at the American Legion honoring all veterans who served from the first Gulf War until the present. About 30 people attended. Thanks to Katrina, Norma and Bryon Glock, Patty & Rob Smith. Karen Healy, Tina Thurlow and her mother—they helped immensely.

HAVRC hosted a Resource Fair along with Oakland County Veterans Affairs on July 13, 2023, 9:00 a.m.-Noon at the Richter Campus in the Gym. Over 197 passed through our doors. The Center had two booths: Our military library had a table of free books and Katrina, our Service Officer, had a table and did a brisk business. Holly Township Library also had books to give away. It was a very successful resource fair.

We hold the **Vet-to-Vet** dinner on the 3rd **Monday** of the month. The next **Vet-to-Vet will be held on August 21, 2023**, at the American Legion Hall, 408 S. Saginaw. It is free to veterans and their families. Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. and after we will have a short presentation. After the speaker, we ask people if they have questions about claims or other issues. You can bring a dish to pass if you want. Join us for good conversation. We greatly appreciate the support of Linda Stouffer and the Battle Alley Coffee Shop.

We belong to the Holly Chamber of Commerce. Check their website for upcoming events.

The Hometown Heroes Project: If you know of someone going into the service or someone leaving the service, please let us know and the committee will organize an event to honor them. We are keeping a close eye on the tree. **Call Mike Patterson at 248-535-5460. They recently replaced the ribbons.**

Many thanks to the Emil Joseph Family for the generous donations supporting the Hometown Heroes Project. Thanks to Ina Golden for sending them our way.

If you need medical equipment, call us. **Clothing donations: We accept coats, hats, scarves and gloves.**

Our library has fiction and non-fiction books on military history, general history, DVDS and more. You are more than welcome to come in and browse. You don't have to be a veteran to use our library. **Karen Healy, our Librarian and Secretary**, does a great job of keeping us on our toes. We also take donations of military artifacts and uniforms. We display everything.

Many thanks to the Holly Township Library and their donations to our library.

Center Information

We are a resource center. If you are a veteran or a family member with an issue or question, call us and we will do our best to help you. We are a 501(c)3 and **not** part of the VA or any veterans organizations. We operate solely on donations. We're located at the Richter Campus and are open from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Come through the Village entrance on the west side of the building. Park back by the gym.

When we are open you are welcome to stop by and chat with us or seek our help. Come in, have a cup of coffee or tea and a cookie or two. **Contact Joe 810-348-9960, or Ray 248-882-1406. Our email is havrc1@gmail.com**

We don't charge for services. Our mission is to help veterans and their families. We greatly appreciate the work done by our volunteers. Patty Smith is our newest board Member. **We are volunteers.**

Oakland County Veterans Affairs Office has a certified Service officers who is in our center on the second Tuesday of the month from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. They would prefer you make an appointment. Call **248-858-0415** to make an appointment. You can always come to the center and see if you can get in to see their Service Officer. They are also not part of the VA.

If you are coming in to see a **Service Officer**, bring your discharge paper. It's a good idea to make notes about what you want to talk about. Remember, you are your own best advocate. You might consider having your wife or loved one come in with you. They have seen a lot and can be of considerable help.

If you are denied by the VA, bring in the documents and we will help you sort things out as will our Service Officers. You are not alone in dealing with the VA. You should be aware, that if you are in the system, the VA has a lot of resources to help you. We can suggest ideas about what to ask the service officer.

If you are a Gulf War Veteran, be aware that nine cancers that are now presumptive and are on the VA website. Stop in and we will be happy to share the information we have and see if we can help you.

Attention: **The Pact Act** just passed by Congress. There are new presumptive disability benefits. There are 23 illnesses covered by the Act. It also deals with veterans exposed to toxins. Contact us for more information. Or just stop by and talk with us. We love to talk.

Remember, a veteran is a veteran. Veteran's families are important. Freedom is not Free!

Joseph Michael Mishler, writer & Karen Healy our publisher

Important Dates:

8/1/2023	American Legion Meeting	American Legion Hall	7:00 p.m.
8/9/2023	HAVRC Monthly Meeting	Resource Center	1:30 p.m.
8/9/2023	Veterans of Foreign Wars	VFW Hall	7:00 p.m.
8/10/2023	Legion Aux. Meeting	American Legion Hall	1:00 p.m.
8/11/2023	Open Mic	American Legion Hall	7:00 p.m.
8/11/2023	Soldier Story: (all women's stories)	Clarkston Village Players	7:00 p.m.
8/21/2023	Vet-to-Vet Dinner	American Legion Hall	5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.