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[AmLegionPost295.org](http://AmLegionPost295.org)

[POST COMMANDER's BLOG](#)

[DATELINE \(NEWS\)](#)

[LEGISLATIVE UPDATE](#)

## Post Calendar

**MAY 20 ~ 1 PM**  
Department Executive  
Committee Meeting  
American Legion Post 71  
Oakland, MD

**May 27 ~ 6AM (kickstand up)**

Greetings Legion family,

Memorial Day is here, time to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. On Sunday, Post 295 Legion Riders will depart Krispy Kreme Donuts, 14919 Shady Grove Road Rockville, MD 20850, at 6:30 am to participate in Rolling Thunder's 25th Anniversary Ride. Interested motorcycle riders are welcome to come along. You should bring sunscreen, and something to drink or eat. Contact me if you want to come so we will not leave without you.

Post 295's effort to raise much needed funds is underway. We are raffling 2 - New iPads, a \$10 donation, will get you a 1 in 500 chance to win. I need you to help, a couple of Legionnaires selling tickets will not get it done. I am asking every Post 295 Legionnaire to buy 2 tickets. This way we would only need to sell 200 to make 100 tickets. If everyone does so, we would be pulling the ticket tomorrow. Ask friends to buy one. When 1000 tickets are sold we will draw the winner.

I am looking for Army Class A uniforms. Do you have one that you don't need? Donate to Post 295 for the Honor Guard. At the regular Post meeting on May 10th, it was decided that some changes to the Color Guard & Honor Guard uniforms needed to be made to accommodate more participation. The changes are outlined below.

Gaithersburg Post 295 baseball is quickly approaching, more info in the coming weeks.

If anyone is interested in attending the So MD District roast our District Officers we have seats at our table remaining. Contact me ASAP.

*Bob Ouellette, Commander*



**Memorial Day Message**

**6:30)****Rolling Thunder**

Meet-up at Krispy Kreme  
14919 Shady Grove Rd  
Rockville, MD  
Call 240-505-4660 so we know  
you are coming.

**JUNE 2 ~ 4 PM****SMD Reception for District  
Commander Bob Ouellette**

American Legion Post 82  
La Plata, MD

**June 14 ~ 7 PM****POST MEETING**

Mont Village Golf Club ~ Grill  
Room (around back, downstairs)

**June 24 ~ 1PM****SMD Caucus**

Post 295  
Clinton, MD

**July 5 ~ 6PM****Bethesda Big Train Non-  
Profit of the Night Shirely  
Povich Field**

Cabin John Regional Park  
(100 Free Tickets - Just ask -  
donations accepted)



Sponsor this newsletter for  
\$300 a year or \$150 for 6  
Months. Other opportunities  
available.

**Jobs for Maryland**

It is never over. Missions may end but the legacies left and the  
pain of their absence endure.

By the time our last remaining troops returned from Iraq in  
December 2011, nearly 4,500 of their comrades lost their lives  
during Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

We continue to lose American heroes every day in Afghanistan  
and in military training accidents and missions around the world.  
The loss to their families, friends, fellow servicemembers and  
country is permanent.

Some were only teenagers and most of those killed were under  
age 25. In the eyes of their loved ones, they are forever young.

Remembering our fallen once a year is not enough. The widows,  
widowers, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and children  
remember EVERYDAY.

The empty seat at the dinner table, the smaller gathering on  
Thanksgiving, and the voice of a loved one heard only as a  
distant memory are constant reminders that they are gone.

But there are also people who can enjoy time with their families  
because of the sacrifices that others have made.

Scripture tells us that "Greater love hath no man than this, that a  
man lay down his life for his friends."

Marine Corporal Jason Dunham epitomized this. A 22-year-old  
native of upstate New York, Corporal Dunham was on patrol  
when his unit was attacked in Iraq. When the enemy hurled a  
grenade, Corporal Dunham used his helmet and body to smother  
the explosive, absorb the blast and save his fellow Marines. Eight  
days later, on April 22, 2004, he died from the injuries inflicted  
by the blast. He was the first Marine to receive the Medal of  
Honor since the Vietnam War.

From the American Revolution to the Global War on Terrorism,  
one million American men and women like Corporal Dunham  
have made the Supreme Sacrifice. They died so that we could  
continue to cherish the things they loved ---God, country and  
family.

That is why we are gathered here on Memorial Day...to honor  
the memory of our fallen warriors who have given everything for  
their country.

We are also reminded on this day that in each generation, brave  
men and women will always step forward to take the oath of  
allegiance as members of America's armed forces, willing to  
fight and if necessary die, for the sake of freedom.

In reflecting on the sacrifices of their comrades during World  
War I, the founders of The American Legion saw four common  
reasons or pillars, if you will, as to why Americans so often in

## Veterans

Thursday is Jobs for Maryland Veterans Day! When MDVA receives notices from employers who are interested in hiring veterans, these notices will be posted in a weekly Job Board email. Please do not contact MDVA regarding any of the listed opportunities. Employers should be contacted directly. These are the postings for May 3rd.

## Veterans Job Fair and Expo

Washington DC VA Medical Center is hosting a veterans only job fair on Thursday, May 30 from 10 am - 3 pm. Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation will also be in attendance to help veterans improve their job search skills.

The Washington DC VA Medical Center address is: 50 Irving St NW, Washington, DC 20422 202-745-8000

## VANGEL Paper Inc.

Local, family-owned recycling and data destruction business is looking for hardworking, reliable straight-truck drivers with good customer service skills. The position is full-time (40 hours) and you must be available for over-time. The starting salary is \$14 per hour Class C; \$16 per hour Class B. Benefits include 401K and pension profit sharing plans, paid vacation, and medical (HRA) and dental.

the past and still to this day answer their nation's call - even to the point of sacrificing their lives.

They do it to provide a strong national defense --- to keep America safe and secure against those enemies who would destroy our American way of life.

They do it for their fellow comrades...for those fighting by their side against all odds and for those who eventually separate from the military but proudly claim their status as veterans.

They do it for American core values of God and country --- family, patriotism and our religious heritage.

They do it for their children...so that they can grow up in an America that is strong and free.

It is through this last pillar - children...that we can continue the spirit of Memorial Day each and every day.

More than 6,400 American men and women have died in Afghanistan and Iraq in the latest wars. Many were parents.

The innocence of their grieving children will be challenged by the dramatic change affecting the balance of security and comfort in their family routine. Their hearts will feel the sharp sting of their loss, leaving them only with memories of their loving mom or dad. Life as they have known it will be much harder from now on.

There are many tangible things we can do to honor the service of our fallen heroes. First and foremost, is to take care of their families. In some cases, this means providing financial assistance to help their children obtain higher education.

This is why The American Legion established The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Across this great country, The American Legion is raising funds to ensure that college education will be a reality for these families.

We honor the living comrades of the fallen - the wounded, injured and ill members of our Armed Forces through programs like Operation Comfort Warriors, Heroes to Hometowns and through the work of American Legion service officers. Often times these veterans are surprised that so many want to help them. We don't do this because of any requirements. We do it because we want to. It is simply the right thing to do.

Memorial Day is not about picnics and parades - although, there is nothing wrong with enjoying and celebrating our American way of life. But Memorial Day is really about remembering those who made our way of life possible.

Army Sergeant Dennis Weichal (Why Kull) was one such man. Sergeant Weichal enlisted in the Rhode Island National Guard in

Job requirement: 21 years of age  
1 year previous truck (5 ton GVW)  
driving experience. Clean driving  
record, pass pre-employment drug  
screening and random drug tests,  
pass background check. Call 410-  
644-0616

## HELP WANTED? HIRE A VET!

As part of their series on veterans and jobs, Patch.com has begun posting veterans' resumes on Patch. Please check out the following link to find out how to post your resume. It lists what additional information should be included in your posting.

Contact Whitney Teal, at  
whitney.teal@patch.com for  
additional information.

[Help Wanted? Hire a Vet!](#)

## VETERANS RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VRAP)

**The VRAP program offers 12 months of retraining assistance to Veterans who are:**  
**Unemployed**  
**At least 35 but no more than 60 years old**  
**Have an other than dishonorable discharge**  
**Not eligible for any other VA education benefit program**  
**Not in receipt of VA compensation due to Individual Unemployability (IU)**  
**Not enrolled in a federal or state job training program**  
**Enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school**  
**Application process begins May 15th!**

2001. He successfully completed a tour in Iraq in 2005 and was re-deployed to Afghanistan in 2012.

When a young Afghan boy was picking up shell casings in the middle of the road, Sgt. Weichal acted with what his friends say was characteristic instinct. He pushed the boy from the path of a moving armored vehicle and sacrificed his own life so the boy could live.

His friend, Staff Sergeant Ronald Corbett said, "He would have done it for anybody. That was the way he was. He would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it."

Three young children in Rhode Island sacrificed their father, so another young child in Afghanistan could live.

During the funeral, a National Guard chaplain read a letter written by Sergeant Weichal's son, Nicholas.

"I really, really miss you," Nicholas said. "I promise I will protect my sisters, Hope and Madison, like you told me to. You are my hero. I know you are in heaven watching over me. You are the brightest star."

You are our brightest star, too, Sergeant Weichal. And the sacrifice that you and your fellow Americans have made will not be forgotten!

May God bless them and may God bless the United States of America!



## A federal appeals court has reversed a ruling that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs must overhaul how it cares for veterans with combat-related mental health care illnesses.

VA Lawsuit ~ Lack of Care Update 15: A federal appeals court has reversed a ruling that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs must overhaul how it cares for veterans with combat-related mental health care illnesses. By a 10-1 decision, a panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco said it could not conclude that the VA's treatment of veterans, which sometimes causes claims to remain unaddressed for several years, was unconstitutional. The panel said only Congress or the President had authority to direct changes to speed up how veterans are treated. Nonprofit groups contended the VA contributed to the despair that led to roughly 6,500 suicides a year by U.S. veterans. "As much as we may wish for expeditious improvement in the way the VA handles mental healthcare and service-related disability compensation, we cannot exceed our jurisdiction to accomplish it," Judge Jay Bybee wrote for the majority. Citing President Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural

## **VRAP Factsheet**

### **American Legion Extension Institute now available online**

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online.

The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. To register and take the course, visit [www.legion.org/alei](http://www.legion.org/alei). The program is designed to take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each, followed by a final exam.

The sections closely follow the Four Pillars of service for the organization. They include:

- History & Organization
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
- National Security
- Americanism
- Children & Youth

The online course is \$4.95 for members of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion. The registration fee is \$9.95 for non-members. Payment can be accepted securely and conveniently on the course registration page.

The American Legion Extension Institute online training program replaces the series of printed booklets that had been printed

address, he added: "There can be no doubt that securing exemplary care for our nation's veterans is a moral imperative. But Congress and the President are in far better position 'to care for him who shall have borne the battle.'"

The 7 MAY decision overturned a 2-1 ruling last May by a panel of the same court. That panel said the VA's treatment delays in handling post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health claims, often causing benefits to be delayed for up to four years, reflected "unchecked incompetence." It had demanded that the district court ensure the VA implement appropriate safeguards to ensure timely and, when necessary, immediate mental health care. Bybee, however, said that to uphold the May 2011 ruling would "embroil the district court in the day-to-day operation of the VA and, of necessity, require the district court to monitor individual benefits determinations." The case was brought by two nonprofit groups, Veterans for Common Sense and Veterans United for Truth. They claimed the VA's failure to provide timely treatment was a factor behind a high suicide rate among veterans. The VA has estimated that 18 veterans commit suicide per day. Suicide accounted for 34,598 U.S. deaths in 2007, making it the country's 10th-leading cause of death, according to the government's National Institute of Mental Health. About one quarter of the roughly 25 million U.S. veterans are enrolled in the VA health care system, which includes 153 hospitals and 800 outpatient clinics, according to the last May's ruling. A lawyer for the nonprofit groups did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The VA also did not immediately respond.

Judge Mary Schroeder dissented from Monday's decision. The majority "leaves millions of veterans - present, past, and future - without any available redress for claims that they face years of delay in having their rights to hard-earned benefits determined," she wrote. "No one could think this is just or what Congress intended." Bybee was appointed to the bench by President George W. Bush. Judge Stephen Reinhardt wrote the original 2-1 panel ruling, and was joined by Judge Procter Hug. Both were appointed to the bench by President Jimmy Carter. Neither sat on the 11-judge panel that ruled on Monday. Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, who dissented from the original ruling, did sit on the larger panel. The case is *Veterans for Common Sense et al v. Shinseki et al*, 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, No. 08-16728. [Source: Reuters Jonathan Stempel article 7 May 2012 ++]



## **Post 295 Honor Guard and Color Guards**

Post 295 has organized a volunteer Honor Guard /Color Guard (hereafter called a "Guard"). Members must be a member of the Post 295 American Legion family e.g., Post 295, Squardon 295 or Unit 295. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been developed and is available on the Post 295 website. The SOP defines the standards and procedures for the training, certification and use of the Color Guards and Honor Guards.

and sold through National Headquarters.

### Start Training Now

What are the differences between the Color Guard and Honor Guard?

The **Color Guard** carries, escorts, displays, posts, and recovers the national color and any other appropriate flag(s) during a ceremony. It may be armed or unarmed. A Color Guard will not fire salutes.

The **Honor Guard** performs the ceremonial function of honoring an individual or group, living or deceased, by standing guard, assisting, escorting, firing salutes, or otherwise participating in a ceremony or activity without use of the national or state color. It may be armed or unarmed. Exception: when a national or state color is a part of a funeral or burial ceremony as a casket drape or a folded veterans' flag, its handling may be a part of the responsibility of an Honor Guard.

Guards will be equipped at limited expense to Post 295. Individual members are required to purchase and care for their uniforms. At some point in the future it is planned that Post 295 will have enough uniforms available to issue.

Berets should be purchased through Post 295 to ensure uniformity,

Class A or Battledress uniform may be worn as appropriate. White pistol belt and cotton gloves may be worn with the Class A and battledress uniform. The uniform must be consistent among all member of the Guard. Bloused boots will be worn by the Guard with the Class A and battledress uniforms. The wear of bloused boots is an not an option, it is a requirement

Class A consists of US Army dress green uniform, coat and pants, [American Legion long sleeve white shirt](#), Army Brass Black Belt, bloused [black boots](#) and [black beret \(with 5 SF Flash\)](#) and balck tie. Additional items needed available from Emblem Sales; [Collar Emblems \(3 ea\)](#),

Battledress consists of Vietnam era Reproduction Type 3 or 3rd Pattern (Slanted Pockets) Ripstop Jungle Fatigue shirt and pants. Olive drab (OD) green t-shirt and OD green socks (if visible), bloused black boots and black beret. These uniform items are available [here](#).

Flag carrier devices be white in color.

The carrying of Firearms must, in all cases, be consistent with state and local civilian laws. Participation in a Guard extends no privileges to any member not otherwise granted by the law. Side arms (handguns) will not be carried. Only U.S. service rifles, M1 Garands, issued by the Department of Defense Civilian Marksmanship Program equipped with blank adapters of the following patterns may be carried. In all cases all weapons carried by a Guard must be identical. Under no circumstances will firearms be carried loaded with ammunition, blank or otherwise. Magazine-type weapons will be carried without magazines. Honor Guards firing salutes will load with blank

ammunition only immediately prior to firing. Immediately prior to beginning any ceremony which involves firing a blank salute, the person in charge of the Guard will personally inspect every cartridge, every magazine, and every magazine pouch to ensure that no live rounds, or magazines with live rounds, were inadvertently mixed with the blanks.

FM 22-5, Drill and Ceremony, will be the basis for all training. The manual will not be supplemented. Training may be done at any suitable location. However, drill with the use of blank ammunition will only be done on or a firing range, so as to keep the sound of firing to a minimal disturbance. At no times will firearms be discharged inside a building. NRA firearm safety rules will be followed to ensure the safe handling of normal drill times, however, Guard activities may not supplant or hinder individuals' regular responsibilities.

Upon successful completion the training needed to execute the functions of an Color Guard or Honor Guard, and participation in a successful function members will be awarded an Honor Guard Tab. On completion of five missions an a gold aiguillette will be awarded for wear on the class A uniform.



## Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DoL) are working together to roll out the new Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) program on July 1, 2012. The VRAP offers 12 months of training assistance to Veterans who:

- Are at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Are unemployed
- Received an other than dishonorable discharge
- Are not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance).
- Are not in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability.
- Are not enrolled in a federal or state job training program.

The program is limited to 45,000 participants during fiscal year 2012, and to 54,000 participants from October 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014. Participants will receive a monthly payment equal to the full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program (currently \$1,473 per month). The benefit will be paid directly to you and you are responsible for paying your expenses including tuition, fees, and books. The Department of Labor will offer employment assistance to every Veteran who participates or applies to the VRAP program. Participants must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school.

The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate, and train the Veteran for a high demand occupation. VRAP will provide training for programs of education that lead to a high demand occupation, as determined by the Department of Labor. At

[http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/VRAP\\_High\\_Demand.pdf](http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/VRAP_High_Demand.pdf)

can be found a breakdown of positions covered in the following:

- Management Occupations
- Business and Financial Operations
- Computer and Mathematical Occupations
- Architecture and Engineering Occupations
- Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations
- Community and Social Services Occupations
- Legal Occupations
- Education, Training, and Library Occupations
- Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations
- Healthcare Practitioner and Technical Occupations
- Healthcare Support Occupations
- Protective Service Occupations
- Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations
- Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations
- Personal Care and Service Occupations
- Sales and Related Occupations
  
- Office and Administrative Support Occupations
- Construction and Extraction Occupations
- Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations
- Production Occupations
- Transportation and Material Moving Occupations

How to Apply - The Department of Labor and the Department of Veterans Affairs will begin accepting applications on May 15, 2012. To complete the application, you will need to know your direct deposit information (bank routing number and account number), the name and location of your school, the program you wish to pursue, and the applicable high demand occupation. Go to <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm> to find out more.

For veterans seeking a employment now there are extensive employment resources available for Veterans provided by the Federal Government. Visit <http://www.fedshirevets.gov> and the Department of Labor's <http://www.dol.gov/vets> to learn more. [ Source: <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm> May 2012 ++]



## **JOINT SERVICE OPEN HOUSE & AIR SHOW**

**"Keeping America Strong and Secure, United in Purpose and Steadfast in Service"**

The 2012 Joint Service Open House, featuring the Blue Angels, the Golden Knights, and many other exciting aerial and ground attractions.

Join us Saturday May 19th and Sunday May 20th, open to the general public.

Department of Defense card holders and school-sponsored children invited to join us on Friday, May 18th.



Unauthorized vehicles are prohibited from Joint Base Andrews. Shuttle bus transportation provided from FedExField parking and Branch Ave Metro Station.

In-bound buses to the event will stop running at 1PM on Sat and Sun.

Inclement weather? Call our information line at 301-981-4600 to check



[Read More](#)



## VA testing whether meditation can help treat PTSD

by Steve Vogel

Seeking new ways to treat post-traumatic stress, the Department of Veterans Affairs is studying the use of transcendental meditation to help returning veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Veterans Affairs \$5.9 billion system for mental-health care is under sharp criticism, particularly after the release of an inspector general's report last month that found that the department has greatly overstated how quickly it treats veterans seeking mental-health care.

VA has a huge investments in mental-health care but is seeking alternatives to conventional psychiatric treatment, said W. Scott Gould, deputy secretary of veterans affairs.

The reality is, not all individuals we see are treatable by the techniques we use, Gould said at a summit Thursday in Washington on the use of TM to treat post-traumatic stress suffered by veterans and active-duty service members.

By some estimates, 10 percent of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan show effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, numbers that are overwhelming the department.

Conventional approaches fall woefully short of the mark, so we clearly need a new approach, said Norman Rosenthal, a

clinical professor of psychiatry at Georgetown University's medical school.

Rosenthal told the gathering that TM, a meditative practice that advocates say helps manage stress and depression, is possibly even a game-changer in how to treat PTSD.

VA is spending about \$5 million on a dozen clinical trials and demonstration studies of three meditation techniques involving several hundred veterans from a range of conflicts, including Iraq and Afghanistan. Results from the studies will not be available for 12 to 18 more months.

But Gould said he was encouraged by the results of other trials presented at the summit. Two independent pilot studies of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans showed a 50 percent reduction in symptoms of post-traumatic stress after eight weeks, according to the summit's sponsor, the David Lynch Foundation, a charitable organization founded by the American filmmaker and television director.

Results from the initial phase of a long-term trial investigating the effects of TM on 60 cadets at Norwich University, a private military college in Vermont, have shown promise, school officials said at the summit.

Students practising TM at Norwich showed measurable improvement in the areas of resilience, constructive thinking and discipline over a control group not using the method. The statistical effect we found in only two months was surprisingly large, Carole Bandy, an associate professor of psychology who is directing the Norwich study, said at the summit.

For us, it's all about the evidence, said Norwich President Richard W. Schneider, who added that he was a skeptic before the trial began.

Operation Warrior Wellness, an initiative of the David Lynch Foundation, is providing TM training to troops recovering from wounds at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state. Soldiers report dramatic improvements in sleep, according to the foundation, as well as significant reductions in pain, stress and the use of prescription medications.

Lynch, the director of Blue Velvet, Mulholland Drive and the television series Twin Peaks, is a longtime practitioner of TM. The VA is very interested in what this can do, Lynch said in a telephone interview Thursday. He acknowledged that many in the military are wary of transcendental meditation, with its New Age and mystic connotations.

Big-time, Lynch said. They're skeptical until they start hearing stories, or experiencing it for themselves.



## Learn Transcendental Meditation

Studies show that TM can reduce the effects of PTS by 50% in as little as 8 weeks. It is incredibly easy to learn and helps with everyday stress.

Contact [Ralph Emmerich](#), Center Administrator  
Bethesda, MD  
11300 Rockville Pike, Suite 408, Rockville, MD 20852  
301-770-5690

[Read More](#)



## Legion/SALPost 295 Fundraiser

# WIN



## The new iPad

With the stunning Retina display.  
5MP iSight camera. Ultrafast Wi-Fi + 4G LTE. 64GB

\$ 10 Donation

Chances of winning - 1 in 500



For the benefit of American Legion Post 295 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Gaithersburg, MD

Contact us and we will gladly send you some tickets to sell. Here are some incentives to sell some tickets. Tickets may be purchased online using the button below. There is total of 1,000 tickets, chance of winning 1 in 500. Drawing occurs when all tickets are sold.

Legion/SAL members over 18 years of age

- First Legion/SAL member to sell 30 tickets (not online sales)
- gets THREE Free tickets - not transferable

- SAL members 15 - 18 years of age
- First THREE Legion/SAL members to sell 20 tickets (not online sales)
  - gets TWO Free Tickets - not transferable

- SAL members up to 15 years of age
- First SAL member to sell 10 tickets (not online sales)
  - gets ONE Free Ticket (not transferable)



## Veterans Skills to Jobs Act

American Legion supports H.R. 4155 and S. 2239

### ACTION ALERT - [TAKE ACTION NOW](#)

(May 16, 2012) After serving our country honorably, all veterans deserve the chance to earn a paycheck and support their families. Unfortunately, the unemployment rate for veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan remains stubbornly high. According to the latest Employment Situation of Veterans' annual report from The Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for veterans who served post 9/11 was 12.1 percent in 2011, compared with the jobless rate for all veterans of 8.3 percent. Those hit the hardest from that group are our young male veterans, ages 18-24, which have an unemployment rate of 29.1 percent, higher than the 17.6 percent jobless rate of their young male non-veteran counterparts. This is unacceptable and unnecessary.

The Department of Defense provides some of the best vocational training in the nation for its military personnel. There are many occupational career fields in the armed forces that can easily translate to a civilian counterpart; additionally, there are many occupations in the civilian workforce that require a license or certification.

Upon separation, however, many service members, certified as proficient in their military occupational career, are not licensed or certified to perform the comparable job in the civilian workforce, thus hindering chances for immediate civilian employment and delaying career advancement. This situation creates an artificial barrier to employment upon separation from military service.

On March 7, U.S. Rep. Jeff Denham (CA-19) and Rep. Tim Walz (MN-1) introduced the Veterans Skills to Jobs Act , H.R. 4155 , to streamline the bureaucratic processes for veterans with relevant training to get jobs when they return home. Later that month, a

companion bill, S. 2239 , was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Bill Nelson (FL) and cosponsored by Sens. Olympia Snowe (ME), Amy Klobuchar (MN) and Richard Blumenthal (CT).

The Veteran Skills to Jobs Act helps address the unacceptably high rate of veteran unemployment by directing the head of each federal department and agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for federal license, so that veterans can get back to work quickly. Congress and the nation have a compelling interest in fostering the employment of veterans. An expanded credentialing program has widespread support on Capitol Hill and from many top defense officials. It marks a major cultural shift for the military, which once held the view that making it easier for troops to get out would reduce retention and hurt the military.

The federal government is uniquely situated and obligated to take the lead on this, not only to overcome old attitudes, but to set an example for state and local government agencies which grant occupational licenses and set certain professional standards.

As the Nation's largest veterans service organization, The American Legion believes there are none more deserving than America's service members and veterans. All Legionnaires, concerned citizens, veterans and their families are requested to write, call and visit their congressional representatives to either request their co-sponsorship of the Veteran Skills to Jobs Act or to thank them for their support.

**Read More**

American Legion Post 295, Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
/ PO Box 690 / Germantown, Maryland 20875 / 2405054660

**\$25**



FILL OUR TABLE , 8 seats at the

Southern Maryland District Reception  
for

**DISTRICT COMMANDER BOB OUELLETTE**

Saturday, June 2, 2012



Hosted by: Harry White Wilmer Post 82  
6330 N. Crain Hwy, La Plata, MD 20646  
301/934-8221

[www.alpost82.org](http://www.alpost82.org)

Purchase your ticket here.

**Offer Expires: Purchase by May 20th**

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