

We Honor Veterans Newsletter



January 2021 Edition

Veterans Day 2020

To celebrate Veterans Day in 2019, Gilchrist military veteran volunteers, ROTC cadets from the program at Loyola University/Towson University as well as Gilchrist staff honored over 500 veterans and their families across 5 days in 13 residential care communities.

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to go into facilities in 2020 to celebrate Veterans Day. Instead, a team of Gilchrist staff and veteran volunteers developed a video which was made available for the facility staff to show to their veterans. If you would like to see our Veterans Day video, just click on the link below:

[Virtual Veterans Day Celebration - 2020 - YouTube](#)

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

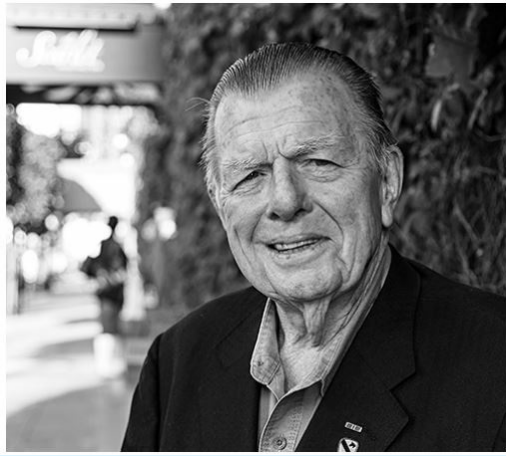
Our next Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration is scheduled for March 2021. This is a day to honor and thank the men and women in our community who served during the Vietnam War. This Welcome Home celebration honors the veterans in our care as well as all of the veterans and their loved ones in our community.

Due to the pandemic, Gilchrist will be presenting the program online. You will be able to register to receive the link to join others in Maryland and across the country to watch this tribute to Vietnam Veterans. Go to the Gilchrist website for registration information:

[Welcome Home Celebration for Vietnam Veterans | Gilchrist \(gilchristcares.org\)](#)

Key speakers this year include Joe Galloway and Kimberly Mitchell.

Joe Galloway has been one of America's premier war and foreign correspondents for more than half a century. Mr. Galloway became the only American civilian to receive the Bronze Star with "V" because of his heroism during the Battle of Ia Drang in November of 1965. With Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore (USA Ret.), he co-authored the 1992 national bestseller "We Were Soldiers Once . . . And Young," the story of the Battle of Ia Drang, the first major battle of the Vietnam War.



Joe Galloway



Kimberly Mitchell

Kimberly Mitchell is the Senior Vice President for Military, Veteran and Government Affairs at National University. She leads the innovative efforts at NU for military, veteran and military family educational and degree programs. Prior to her position at National University, Kim was President and CEO of Veterans Village of San Diego, where she led a robust team who serve over 3000 veterans annually by providing veterans experiencing challenges post service with residential treatment programs, mental health programs, and support services. Kim is a nationally recognized leading vocal advocate for our service members, veterans, military families and Gold Star Families and frequently speaks at non-profit, community, and corporate conferences in communities across the country. Adopted during the Vietnam War from an orphanage in DaNang in 1972, Kim is also recognized as an advocate for our Vietnam Veterans and Vietnam era veterans. She was the official spokesperson for the Department of Defense 50 Year Vietnam War Commemoration Committee for 3 years, and over the past 8 years has participated in events across the country recognizing and honoring the service of our Vietnam Veterans.

Lieutenant Annie L. Terry

Annie L. Townsend completed nursing school at Georgetown University and joined the Army in 1948. Annie originally joined the Army and then was transferred to the newly formed Air Force. Annie has a unique position of having entered the military in the Army and leaving from the Air Force. Annie was among the first of the Air Force personnel, that new branch having been formed the year before from the Army Air Corps.

Annie joined the Army October 26, 1948 right out of nursing school as a 2nd LT Medical Nurse and was based in San Antonio, Texas. While working as a nurse in San Antonio, Annie took care of many patients – but there was one very special patient. William Terry, who was in the Army and would go on to serve in Korea and Vietnam War retiring as a Master SGT. Annie and William married in 1950, had a daughter Theresa in 1951 followed by son Bill in 1953. Annie L. Terry was discharged from the Air Force December 31, 1950 as a 1st LT.

Annie contracted polio which would render her 100% service disabled resulting in her military discharge in 1950. Annie had an amazing recuperation from her disability, so much so that she later became a golf champion at Leisure World in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Annie L. Terry was honored for her military service on December 7, 2020. The Salute to Service Tribute was conducted by Air Force veteran Gaye Stokes and Army veteran Ed Kaplan using Zoom and involved 12 other Gilchrist military veteran volunteers. The Gilchrist veterans were honored to present the “We Honor Veterans” Commemorative Pin and Certificate of Appreciation to Annie L. Terry for her unique contribution to the service of our nation.



Lieutenant Annie L. Terry being honored by a team of Gilchrist military veteran volunteers

Stephen Krywucki - Air Force Veteran

Stephen Krywucki served in the Air Force between the Korean and Vietnam wars. When asked what he did in the Air Force, Stephen smiles and says “Accounting and Finance – we made sure everyone got paid.”

Stephen was honored with a Salute to Service Tribute (SST) this past September. For many months the Gilchrist military volunteer teams were unable to go into a veteran’s home due to the pandemic. The teams were eventually given permission to conduct the tributes outside. One of our first outside tributes was for Mr. Krywucki.

With over 20 family and friends in attendance, a team of Gilchrist staff and veteran volunteers conducted the tribute which included an opening prayer, the national anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, an Air Force reading, and military and patriotic music. The team presented Stephen with a certificate, handmade lap blanket, door plaque and a handmade card from a second grader. Stephen was also presented with a We Honor Veterans pin. Mr. Krywucki (wearing his Air Force sweatshirt) proudly returned the formal salute at the conclusion of the tribute.



Stephen Krywucki back in the day



Stephen Krywucki returning a formal salute from the Gilchrist veteran volunteer team

World War II Veteran Salute

Robert E. English joined the Navy in 1942 and served our country for four years. Robert

served as a Gunner's Mate in the South Pacific during WWII on both LSM and LCT ships. Robert English passed away and was interred on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020.

Nine Gilchrist veteran volunteers honored the military service of Mr. English with an opening prayer, Veterans Day reading, presentation of a certificate and We Honor Veterans pin, and a special closing reading of a poem for departed sailors entitled "When the Last Hand Comes Aboard." The veterans concluded their part of the service with a final salute.

Robert E. English
Ceremony



Salute to Service Tribute for Robert Woodson

Robert Woodson spent his career in the Army, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Mr. Woodson was recently honored with a Salute to Service Tribute (SST). This SST was conducted outside of the facility where he was residing. Due to the pandemic, the Gilchrist staff and veteran volunteers were unable to go inside the facility.

Mr. Woodson was brought to a large window so he would be able to see his family and the Gilchrist team (Cheri Lally, Amanda Taylor, Patricia Krauss and Katherina Violette as well as veteran volunteers Dean Henderson, Rick Sullivan and Tim Price). The SST was conducted over the phone.

The tribute was a meaningful and heartfelt ceremony that included presenting Mr. Woodson with a Gilchrist certificate of appreciation, a We Honor Veterans pin, a 50th Anniversary Vietnam Veterans pin, a thank you card from a student, and a handmade patriotic quilt. The team also presented his wife with a Proud Wife of a Veteran pin and a patriotic scarf. The SST concluded with a formal salute by the veteran volunteers.



Gilchrist military veteran volunteers saluting
Robert Woodson



Army and Vietnam Veteran Tim Price
speaking to Mr. Woodson over the phone

VVA Chapter 965 Honors Members

Conducting a Salute to Service Tribute (SST) for veterans under hospice care is an honor. The patient and their family are often emotional during the tribute. This past September and October, the Gilchrist veteran volunteer team led by Sherman Canapp conducted two very difficult and emotional salute tributes. Many of the volunteer team are also members of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 965. The team conducted tributes posthumously for Army infantry members who passed away from stage 4 lung cancer caused by agent orange. Both veterans belonged to VVA Chapter 965 as well as VFW Post 2678. They were buddies to many of the team members. The team wanted to conduct the tributes while the veterans were living, however, due to COVID 19 restrictions were unable to do so.

On September 21st, the team conducted a SST at the funeral home after the VFW Ritual Chapel Service for **Donald Head**. Donald, 72, was an Army infantry veteran who patrolled the Vietnamese jungles and was known as a "Tunnel Rat" – risking his life to clear the tunnels of the enemy. Donald received the Vietnam Defense medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the National Defense Medal. Donald was very proud of his service to our country, always wore a Vietnam Veteran shirt and cap, and actually had a room in his house with all of his Vietnam memorabilia. Donald would frequently sing at the Post's Karaoke Night. His favorite song was "Some Gave All, All Gave Some" in memory of the comrades that he lost in Vietnam. Donald Head was buried in his uniform.

The SST was led by Air Force veteran Sherman Canapp and followed the traditional SST format. Everyone in the room stood for the Pledge and National Anthem. The We Honor Veterans pin and Vietnam Pin were presented to Donald on a ribbon which was laid on the pillow next to him. During the tribute, his identical twin brother Ronald (a Marine Vietnam Era Veteran), was presented with the Vietnam Pin. Donald's two daughters were presented with "Proud Family Member of a Veteran" pins and a patriotic lap blanket. The daughters lost their mother and father within a year and a half of each other and the service was very touching for them as it honored their father for his service to our country. The funeral director said that he had never seen a service like ours before and that it was very respectful and compassionate.

John E. Quaty, 73, was an Army infantry veteran who would go into the jungles of Vietnam with his patrol for two weeks at a time. John lost several buddies in combat. John earned the National Defense ribbon, Vietnam Service ribbon with 2 bronze stars, the Vietnam ribbon, and a Purple Heart. John was a sharp shooter with an M16. When John came home, he carried a lot of guilt because he survived and many of his buddies did not. He would not allow his family to celebrate his birthdays with a party because he felt that he did not deserve the recognition when his buddies did not have the chance to have another birthday. John was a Gilchrist patient and not only did not allow the team to honor him with a tribute, he also wanted no services or a funeral after he passed. John's buddies were very disappointed as they wanted to honor his military service.

After talking to his wife Sarah, the team arranged to conduct a posthumous Salute to Service Tribute on October 23rd in the backyard of his home with his wife, son, daughter-in-law, and two grandsons. John's ashes were present with his military service picture and a candle. Sherman Canapp offered an opening prayer. One grandson held the American flag as the other said the Pledge of Allegiance. The team presented the We Honor Veterans pin and the Vietnam pin on a ribbon along with a framed certificate to his wife. The team also presented special pins to his wife and family members as well as patriotic

lap blankets to his wife and son. Team members read a poem, the Army Veteran Prayer, and played the Army song. The tribute concluded with the playing of Taps and a final salute.

The Gilchrist veteran volunteers and VVA Chapter 965 members were honored to be able to present a final salute to these two veterans.

Donald Head was an Army infantry veteran who patrolled the Vietnamese jungles and was known as a "Tunnel Rat" – risking his life to clear the tunnels of the enemy.



John E. Quaty



Final salute for John E. Quaty

Veterans - Get Your Flu Shots

**Protect yourself. Protect your family. Protect your community.
Get your flu shot today!**

During flu season, protecting your health with a flu shot is easier than ever, and as close as one of more than 60,000 community locations. Whether you choose a new Community Care Network (CCN) in-network retail pharmacy or urgent care location that provides eligible Veteran patients easy access to flu shots, it's easy for Veterans to receive their flu shot at the right time and the right place.

Eligibility

- Retail pharmacies: Veterans must be enrolled in the VA health care system.
- Urgent care locations: Veterans must be enrolled in the VA health care system and have received care from a VA or in-network community provider in the past 24 months.

To learn more about your VA benefits, go to: www.choose.va.gov

VA's Women Veterans Quick Start Guide

The VA Women Veterans Quick Start Guide (QSG) provides clear and concise information on how to apply for benefits and access VA health care. How to schedule regular checkups, fill prescriptions and access specialists, such as cardiologists, gynecologists and mental health providers, are outlined in the latest quick start guide.

Women Veterans have their own unique health care needs, some combat related. VA has been, and continues to be, committed to making sure that Women Veterans receive the best available care for all of their specific health care needs.

The new Quick Start Guide helps female Veterans understand what documentation is needed and how to apply for VA benefits, along with a summary of health care services and resources including:

- How to [apply for VA healthcare](#).
- Full listing of health care services.
- Center for Women Veterans at www.va.gov/womenvet/
- VA Women Veterans Call Center 1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636).
- Military Sexual Trauma and Combat PTSD care and resources.

National World War I Memorial Ceremony

The December issue of The American Legion Magazine includes a brief on the “First Colors” ceremony planned for Dec. 11 at the site of the new National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., where the U.S. flag that will fly over the memorial was to be raised. The Legion supports the construction of the memorial, most recently via Resolution 87 in 2017.

The **ceremony has been rescheduled for Apr. 11, 2021**. The memorial site will not be completed until early in the year, and the decision was made based on the scope of the planned activities as well as ongoing concerns about mass gatherings during the pandemic.

“We've waited a century – better now to get it right,” said David Hamon, veterans service organization/military director for the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission.

“First Colors” will trace the path of a flag that first flew over the nation’s capital April 6, 2017, commemorating the centennial of the day the United States went to war in 1917. It then flew over the American World War I battlefield cemeteries of Europe, honoring the 116,516 Americans who died during the war. In its return to Washington, the flag will fly in perpetuity above the memorial.

Updated news about the ceremony will be available on the commission's website at www.worldwar1centennial.org.



Uniform Smiles

Officer: "Private, do you have change for a dollar?"

Private: "Sure, buddy."

Officer: "That's no way to address an officer! Now, let's try it again!"

Officer: "Private. Do you have change for a dollar?"

Private: "No, SIR!"

Please Share

If you enjoyed reading this edition, please forward a copy to other veterans that you know so that they can also enjoy the newsletter. If you are reading a shared copy and would like to receive your own copy of future editions, please send an email with your request to wehonorveterans@gilchristcares.org.

Looking For a Few Good Volunteers

Would you like to be a Gilchrist volunteer? We are always looking for volunteers – especially those who have military experience. Our military veteran volunteers are involved in Salute to Service Tributes for veterans under hospice care, visiting public schools to talk about military service, meeting with veterans to talk about their military service, supporting our annual Welcome Home event for Vietnam Veterans, and many other activities.

If you would like to learn how to become a volunteer, contact Gilchrist at wehonorveterans@gilchristcares.org.

We Want Your Input

If you have suggestions for content you would like to see in future issues of the Gilchrist We Honor Veterans Newsletter, please contact us at wehonorveterans@gilchristcares.org.

**gilchrist**