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## NEWSLETTER AND COORDINATION

September 2, 2011

### Members, Friends, and Colleagues,

We hope that you are weathering the weather!

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 22. Further information will be available later. This is also the date of the Louisiana General Elections. We are sorry for the conflict but suggest that you vote early and attend the meeting. **VOTE!**

I have discovered that there is much activity in the area of veterans concerns by our member organizations—and of course in the national fiscal crush veterans affairs and national defense will be extremely important and under microscope and barrage for the indefinite future. Since the Coalitions meetings are limited I have decided to provide a summary of contacts, activities, and events which are brought to our attention in order to more effectively accomplish our mission.

This newsletter/memorandum is a **start** to meet that purpose. It may certainly be refined so please feel free to offer suggestions for improvements and submit items/notices/ articles of veterans/security matters in which our Coalition might be interested.

Since your Chairman is the editor, publisher, and distributor and solely responsible for this report please understand that the items will be included in a *vanilla* (neither pro nor con) non-binding manner unless otherwise indicated. It is possible that member conversation and agenda actions may result from subjects included in this newsletter; this will make the mission and purpose of the Louisiana Veterans Coalition more meaningful.

Thank you for all the things which all of you do in so many ways for Louisiana veterans and state and national security, justice, peace, and prosperity..

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

*Louis T Dechert*

Chairman. Louisiana Veterans Coalition



## US SPENDING AND POLITICAL WOES PLACE NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE IN PERIL

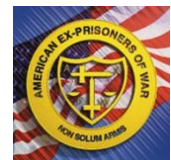
*Shifting the burden of our nation's fiscal mess on to the backs of our military –less than one percent of our population who volunteer for decades of service in harm's way defending our way of life – is morally bankrupt.* <http://www.ausa.org/about/prescorner/Pages/MilitaryRetirementPay.aspx>



*GEN Gordon R. Sullivan, USA, Ret.*  
President & Chief Operating Officer,  
ASSOCIATION OF THE US ARMY  
(AUSA)



**POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY:** September 16 [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo)



*As this newsletter is being composed I was remembering that this day, September 2, is the day, 66 years removed, when the Japanese instrument of surrender was signed aboard the USS Missouri, in Tokyo Bay. The date is uniformly noted as the end of WWII. For many, WWII will not really end until all the missing of that War are accounted for. Similarly, WWII will not be completely concluded until the last US serviceman or woman stacks arms in Germany and Japan and returns home, and until the last earned payment and care for the veterans of that conflict [realistically now frequently termed as the continuing costs for fighting a war] is honorably discharged. . . .*

Many of our members actively participate in veterans organizations where our missing and those last known to be held prisoner are regularly called to notice and honored. Each year September 16 is designated as POW/MIA Recognition Day.

**A CEREMONY** will be held at **Fort Polk, Warrior Memorial Park** (opposite Main Post Chapel), Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>, 1000hours.

**A CEREMONY** will also be held in **Pineville, VA Medical Center Chapel, at 1400hrs.** Department **AMVETS Commander Marion Polk**, a LVC member, is arranging the ceremony and **Colonel Barret Byrd**, also an LVC member and candidate for State Representative, District 25, will be the speaker. For a presentation worthy of **top elected leadership** you can count on US Marine Colonel Byrd. His website is <http://www.barettbyrd.com/>



## GOVERNOR JENDAL AND VETERANS SECRETARY CARSON TO PRESENT MEDALS. September 9



Another Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal Ceremony honoring and thanking veterans from East Baton Rouge Parish and surrounding areas for their service. The ceremony will be at 1230 hours, Friday, September 9, at the *Covenant Community Church*, 22325 Greenwell Springs Road, Central, LA 70739. For more information, please contact LDVA toll free at 1-877-GEAUX-VA (1-877-432-8982) or visit [www.vetaffairs.la.gov](http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov).



## FORT POLK TO CONDUCT 9/11 REMEMBRANCE- September 11



*The Commanding General of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk cordially invites you to attend a 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony in observance of the Ten-Year Anniversary of the 11 September 2001 Terrorist Attacks on Sunday, the eleventh of September at nine o'clock Warrior Memorial Park Louisiana Avenue (Entrance Road) Fort Polk, Louisiana*

Inclement Weather Location: Main Post Chapel located opposite of Warrior Memorial Park



## CHAPTER 177, MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART HONORS VA PSYCHIATRIST ON NATIONAL

**PURPLE HEART DAY, AUGUST 9:** Patriot Richard O'Brien from Baton Rouge has sent word of a special award for a VA Psychiatrist on August 9. The MOPH is a strong member of the LVC. If you want some strong veterans support in the Legislative sessions get in touch with "Rick:"

[RICHARDPLE84@YAHOO.COM](mailto:RICHARDPLE84@YAHOO.COM) Read about the award at [http://www.neworleans.va.gov/features/MOPH\\_Chapter\\_177\\_honors\\_Dr\\_Johnny\\_Simpson.asp](http://www.neworleans.va.gov/features/MOPH_Chapter_177_honors_Dr_Johnny_Simpson.asp)

*Thanks, Patriots.*



**3<sup>RD</sup> TRIANNUAL MEETING OF THE MOAA LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS :** The 3rd Tri-Annual meeting for 2011 will be hosted by the *Pelican Chapter* at the Picerne Military Housing Conference Room, Bldg 1807, on the corner of Louisiana & Mississippi Street, Ft Polk, on Saturday, 15 October 2011 at 0900 hrs. The MOAA Council of Chapters is a Charter member of the LVC. **For further details of the meeting contact LVC Secretary Robert C Griffith**, address, etc., on masthead of this newsletter.



**NEW VA CLINIC SOUGHT FOR ACADIANA—PAST LOUISIANA VFW COMMANDER LINK SAVOIE LEADS EFFORT; VFW DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE LOUISIANA VETERANS COALITION.**



11:00 PM, Sep. 1, 2011 *Those of us who have lobbied for veterans outpatient clinics, veterans nursing homes and hospitals over the years have learned that the Veterans Administration must perform extensive research when attempting to find additional locales.*

*The veterans of Acadiana made a request for a larger medical facility to satisfy the needs of Acadiana. The VA "crunched" the numbers and finalized the square footage necessary for a facility to fit the needs of the veterans in this general area.*

*It did not take long for our legislative delegation, U.S. Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter, and U.S. Rep. Charles Boustany to respond.*

*The number of veterans in Acadiana did not qualify for a full-fledged hospital, but did open the door to move ahead.*

*With the full support of Acadiana, Gracie Specks, the administrator of the VA Medical Center in Pineville, and her staff worked tirelessly to justify the need for a super clinic in Lafayette. All of this hard work paid off and recently Gerald DeWorth, executive assistant to the VAMC medical director, announced that a veterans clinic site had been approved.*

*Although some services will not be available at the clinic in Lafayette, in order to put the "icing on the cake" the VA should seriously consider a contract with a local hospital - friendly to veterans - that can provide all additional services not available at the clinic. This would eliminate any travel to the Alexandria VAMC in Pineville by the Acadiana veterans.*

*This is doable and worth a try as long as it is for the benefit of our veterans.*

*Lincoln "Link" Savoie  
Sunset*

*Thanks, Link, and Comrades! Great job! Lou Dechert*



**MILITARY MEDICINE MALPRACTICE.** The young Airman in this story could be any of us who use or have used military medical facilities. It also serves to illustrate the exhausting and bankrupting limbo into which many service personnel find themselves today, awaiting determinations for medical discharges.

*As he was trying to insert a port into Read's abdomen, the resident physician, an Air Force captain, sliced the aorta just above where it splits to provide blood to the lower extremities, according to an Air Force report prepared for the two-star general who commanded Travis Air Force Base. [CONTINUES]*

The attending physician, an Air Force major, took over because she suspected that something had gone wrong, according to the report. It had: Read was gushing blood internally from the lacerated aorta. [\[CONTROL+CLICK to continue\]](#)



**ADVANCE NOTICE FOR VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY,  
SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL :**

**November 6**

# 12th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration



November 6, 2011  
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM



Dedication Ceremony at 1:30 PM  
East Beauregard High School Football Stadium

Static Displays:  
U.S. Army  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Louisiana National Guard  
U.S. Army Reserve  
Vintage Military Vehicles  
Patriotic Trucks  
and  
Flyovers by Louisiana Air National  
Guard and  
Vintage Aircraft

Special Guest Speakers



MASTER OF  
CEREMONIES  
John Bridges

Music Performances By:  
Branded  
in concert  
at 12:30 PM  
and  
The East Beauregard  
High School Band

*The residents in the Dry Creek area have been staging this appreciation for all veterans for twelve years. I have attended the Arlington National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony four times, seated on the stage with presidents and leaders. I have attended other ceremonies in other nations—spoke to one in SEOUL, KOREA with 100,000+ attending. Nowhere have I seen a better and more sincere occasion than is staged by the SW LA War Veterans Memorial each year. Attend if you can—you will be honored and proud of our Louisianans.*

*Louis Dechert*

## Remembering our Heroes



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT:  
Jody Campbell  
Event Coordinator  
337-348-6798  
WAR MEMORIAL FUND OF SWLA  
P.O. Box 321  
Dry Creek, LA 70637



\*\* Free to the Public \*\* Complimentary Food & Drinks \*\*



**(CTL and CLICK on poster for larger copy)**



**LOUISIANA VETERANS' COALITION EXECUTIVE MAILING LIST.** THE Chairman and the Secretary have been revising and updating the accumulated mailing lists of the Coalition. We are also seeking to interest others in the Coalition as security and defense concerns weight on all veterans (see Newsletter lead-in, page 1). You may examine the current mailing by [\[CONTROL + CLICK Here\]](#) Additions, deletions, corrections should be submitted to the Secretary, LVC.



**NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS.** [Questions should be addressed to The Secretary, LVC.]

Sixty-six years ago the United States liberated Japanese occupied Korean Peninsula. The REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK , "South Korea") was established four years later. **[CONTINUES]**

The tyrannical Communist NORTH KOREA (DPRK) invaded the ROK on June 25, 1950, and a state of war has existed between the UN Command, ROK, Communist China, and DPRK since that time, interrupted by a ceasefire, July 27, 1953 through the current day. During this period the US and ROK have maintained the ceasefire along the well-publicized DMZ. During this time of “peace” almost 3 million Americans have served in the ROK and adjacent air and waters. Over 1200 Americans have been killed during those duties. About 1.3 million Americans served in the ROK, 1950-1954.

In 2004 a new veterans organization was formed to address all Korea War veterans rather than just the rapidly-dimishing 1950-53 veterans (average age now 78+).



Louis Dechert, then President of the only US veterans organization composed of Korea War veterans—the Korean War Veterans Association, KWVA—and Jeffrey Brodeur, a disabled Korea veteran of the so-called “Second Korean War” [[http://www.kwva.org/second\\_korean\\_war.htm](http://www.kwva.org/second_korean_war.htm)], commander of the Korea Veterans of American (sometimes called the “DMZ vets”) incorporated the all inclusive **501(c)(4) US Federation of Korea Veterans Organizations (USFKVO)**, in Louisiana. Dechert was residing in Louisiana and Brodeur in Massachusetts.

Brodeur is now involved in the Dept of Defense-ROK 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (of the July 27, 1953 Ceasefire) Commemorations. His membership in the LVC will provide continuing tie-in to the DOD and succeeding Korea programs as the aging Korea veterans pass away and the younger Korea veterans carry on.



## HAIL AND FAREWELL:

The following general officers were placed on the retired list effective 1 September 2011:

**General David H. Petraeus** culminated more than 37 years of service as the Commander, International Security Assistance Force/ Commander, United States Forces Afghanistan, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Afghanistan.

**General Walter L. Sharp** culminated more than 37 years of service as the Commander, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea.

### **Gen. Donn Starry, Soldier, Scholar, Visionary, Dies at 86**

8/29/2011

Gen. Donald A. Starry, USA, Ret., who began his service in the U.S. Army as a private during World War II and rose to the rank of four-star general to command U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and U.S. Readiness Command, died after a lengthy illness in Canton, Ohio, on Aug. 26. He was 86.

Known as a great soldier, scholar, mentor, author and visionary, Starry, after serving two years as a private, entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1948 as a second lieutenant in the Transportation Corps. He eventually became an armor officer.

Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, USA, Ret., president of the Association of the United States Army, said, “ The nation has lost one of our most courageous, selfless, perspective and innovative Army leaders. **[CONTINUES]**

His accomplishments are many and his legacy is found in the very being of countless American soldiers.”

Adding, “General Starry will be missed. Our sympathy is extended to the Starry family.”

As TRADOC commanding general from 1977 to 1981, he is credited with becoming the architect and author of the AirLand Battle Doctrine that evolved into the Army’s 21st century warfighting doctrine -- to fight and win the wars of today and tomorrow.

As part of that doctrine, he directed the efforts to create the National Training Center where the precepts of the AirLand Battle Doctrine could be tested by soldiers against a well-trained opposing force.

At a ceremony at the Combined Arms Research Library at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where Starry presented his papers, titled “Press On,” he said, “All we were trying to do was build an Army that could go to war and our soldiers would win.”

As reported in a Fort Leavenworth news release following the ceremony: “He was extremely impressed with how his efforts resulted in transforming the Army from Vietnam to the Army that debuted in Desert Storm.”

During his four decades of military service, Starry commanded the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and led its attack into Cambodia in 1970.

He also commanded the U.S. Army Armor Center and School, Fort Knox, Ky., and V Corps in Germany.

His award citation from West Point in 2009, where he was named a Distinguished Graduate, said of his leadership while commanding V Corps: “... his depth and breadth of strategic and tactical knowledge significantly contributed to the eventual collapse of the Soviet Union.”

He was also recognized for being instrumental in fielding the Abrams tank, the Bradley fighting vehicle, the Apache and Black Hawk helicopters and the Patriot Missile System.

Starry retired in 1983 as commander of U.S. Readiness Command.



## **SOME LINKS:**



The Military Order  
of the

*Purple Heart*



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