

VETERANS FOR CHRIST, INC.
P.O. BOX 362234
DECATUR, GA. 30036



December 31, 2016

My fellow Veterans, grace and peace to you and your family.



We pray you had a great Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's Day. We also pray that God continually bless you and your family in 2017.

The Veterans for Christ is hosting The Vietnam Veterans Honor Certificate and Pin program which will be sponsored by the Department of Veterans Services, at New Birth MBC 6400 Woodrow Rd., Lithonia, Ga. 30038 January 14, 2017 at 12:00 noon in the chapel. The public is welcome.

See attached flier and print & complete form and email to Brian Zerinque at bzeringue@vs.state.ga.us *he* We look forward to seeing you at New Birth January 14, 2017 at 12 noon in the chapel. Commissioner Mike Roby will be presenting the Certificate and Pins.

Dan Gallagher, 69, championed veterans' causes

Dan Gallagher, an influential veterans advocate in Missoula, died Monday from a heart attack at St. Patrick hospital. Gallagher, 69, dealt with heart and stomach problems throughout his life after inhaling Agent Orange during his 1967 tour of duty in Vietnam. His heart attack came after he was hospitalized the day before Veterans Day; he had heart surgery over the Christmas holiday. One of his close friends and fellow Vietnam veteran Mike Halligan talked with Gallagher a few days before his death and he said he was weak, but in good spirits. All business, they talked about veterans affairs in Montana. "That was what he knew and that was what he

was going to go out with,” Halligan said. “Same old Dan. “There probably is no one I know who has dedicated more of his life to veteran’s issues.” The two met at Missoula’s Old Post 101 in the late 1970s. Gallagher started the post with a couple of other local veterans in the Joseph Dixon house downtown after realizing he wasn’t the only veteran who struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder, then known as delayed stress. “It was visceral to him that the public treated Vietnam veterans with so much disdain,” said Halligan, director of government and corporate relations for the Washington Corp. “He matured over the years as he saw the public’s attitude change toward veterans, because they were separated from the politics of the war.” Gallagher also started, organized and emceed the Veterans Day event held at the Doughboy statue in front of the Missoula County Courthouse. Money was tight in the early days of the veterans post, Halligan said, and they couldn’t afford a public address system. So Gallagher would bring a little battery-powered cassette player to broadcast the national anthem while he raised a flag.

“Everybody had to get real close,” Halligan said. “But that was Dan. He was going to run it and wasn’t going to question it.” One year, on a below-zero morning, the batteries froze and they recited the Pledge of Allegiance instead, Halligan said, before an impromptu 20-minute speech by then-Mayor John Toole froze everyone’s toes, forgoing plans for other speakers. For the first time this year, Gallagher was unable to plan and host the event, due to heart troubles. A few of Gallagher’s children organized and set up the event and Halligan stepped in to replace Gallagher, which he said was an honor.

Kerry Gallagher, his daughter, said there’s been tremendous support from people after her father’s death, far more than she and her siblings were ready for. “He had a big impact on people,” she said. “This huge outpouring made us realize.” A few of his siblings still live in Montana, Kerry said, but none in his hometown of Charlo, where he’s going to be buried. In a video interview from October 2015 with the Missoulian, Gallagher laid out his time in the army, return from Vietnam, struggles with delayed stress, and his start in veteran’s advocacy in Missoula.

Gallagher, the youngest of 13 children, felt there was an understanding in his family that he would serve in the military when it was his turn. His father served in World War I and two older

brothers served in World War II and Korea. Naturally then, Gallagher enlisted at the start of the Vietnam War.

“Anybody who goes to war, especially at the age of 19, you experience the destruction, the death,” he said. “It has a life-changing effect on you. All the negatives, all the trauma one associates with that.” While he never got used to the death and awfulness in war, he understood that was what he signed up for. Serving as a combat engineer, Gallagher was tasked with blowing up bridges, dismantling enemy mines and planting his own. One day he met two 10-year-old girls going through the garbage looking for food. He gave his heart to them, deeply sad when his platoon left the area and the girls.

“Years later when UNICEF did a report on the number of casualties after the war that were people that had been killed or hurt by mines left by the Americans, it was in the vicinity of 50,000,” he said. “I thought about how I had planted a lot of mines in Vietnam and that came back, thinking about the kids.” The struggle for Vietnam veterans was their relationship with others – everyone from peaceniks to WWII vets looked down on them after returning to the states, Gallagher said, which confused his peers. They’d grown up with servicemen being praised and celebrated.

“PTSD came to Vietnam veterans not so much because of what we saw in the war, but because of the reception and what we didn’t have when we came back home,” Gallagher said. “There was that feeling of being in no man’s land.” That feeling led to a low point in around 1975, Gallagher said, when he began seeing a psychiatrist who diagnosed him with post-Vietnam disorder. He began writing papers on veteran’s issues for some of his classes and worked to organize Old Post 101, giving veterans a place to gather and talk about their experiences. In 1983 he started sharing his thoughts on veteran’s affairs on Montana Public Radio as a monthly commentator.

*** Verse of the Day**

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:1 KJV

VETERANS IN PAIN

Pain Management Event

January 19, 2017

TIME:
9:30 a.m.
until
3:00 p.m.

Lunch on your own

PLACE:
Atlanta VA Medical Center
1670 Clairmont Road
Decatur, GA 30033
Pete Wheeler Auditorium
Ground Floor

Registration and
Information Call:
800.533.3231

For Veterans & Clinicians

Must Register by phone
There is no charge to
register or participate



Presenter: Penney Cowan, Founder and CEO of the American Chronic Pain Association

The workshop objectives include :

- ☆ Educate attendees on the impact of pain
- ☆ Discuss innovative approaches and resources available to help a person with pain
- ☆ Share tools and coping strategies to bridge the gap between patients and health care providers
- ☆ Explore how to establish and maintain a peer led educational support group

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Atlanta VA Medical Center



NEWS RELEASE

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICE

Public Information Division
404-656-5933
gavetsvc@vs.state.ga.us

For Immediate Release

Veterans for Christ, Inc. to Honor Vietnam Veterans

Georgia Commissioner of Veterans Service Mike Roby will join The Veterans for Christ, Inc. of New Birth Missionary Church, Lithonia on Saturday, **January 14, 2017**, for a ceremony to recognize Vietnam War veterans for their honorable service.

Vietnam veterans have already signed up for the **12 noon** event that will take place in **the chapel** of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church located at 6400 **Woodrow Road in Lithonia** (30038).

Commissioner Roby will present the state's Vietnam War Certificate of Honor to these veterans in recognition of their service during the war. Along with the state certificate each veteran will receive the Defense Department Commemoration Vietnam War Veteran Lapel Pin.

"It is never the wrong time to say thank you to a veteran, and that is especially true for so many Vietnam War veterans who were never properly thanked when they returned home," said Commissioner Roby. "We hope to eventually present every Georgia veteran with a Certificate of Honor recognizing their service during the Vietnam War."

Local Vietnam veterans who have not signed up and are interested in participating in the ceremony can contact the GDVS Central Office in Atlanta at (404) 463-3080 or email bzeringue@vs.state.ga.us. Those interested in receiving the Certificate of Honor and DoD lapel pin can also fax their DD Form 214 marked "Veterans for Christ Vietnam C&P Ceremony" to (404) 656-7006.

Deadline to sign up is close of the business day on Friday, January 6, 2017.

Every Georgia veteran with honorable service during the Vietnam War (from June 1, 1954 to May 15, 1975, as recognized by DoD) is eligible to receive this certificate. This includes veterans with service in-country and those who served in other capacities.

The recognition of these veterans is part of the U. S. Department of Defense's 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War. The Georgia Department of Veterans Service created the Vietnam War Certificate of Honor program in partnership with the Office of Governor Nathan Deal.

Each certificate is personalized with the Vietnam War veteran's name, rank, branch of service, and dates of service printed over the Seal of the State of Georgia and includes the official U.S. Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemorative Partner logo. They are signed by Governor Deal and Commissioner Roby.

Additional information about the State's Vietnam War Certificate of Honor Program and other veteran benefits is available at veterans.ga.gov.



Information about your VA benefits

Dear VA Beneficiary:

If you or someone you know is in receipt of benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), you may see an increase in benefits in 2017. A cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) has been made to these benefits to ensure the purchasing power is not eroded by inflation. The COLA to VA's disability rates is the same percentage as for Social Security as required by [Public Law 114-197](#).

For 2016, it was determined there was a 0.3% increase in the inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index. Therefore, the COLA for 2017 is 0.3%. The adjustment to your benefits will occur in December and will be distributed on Friday, December 30, 2016. You may view your VA payments on [eBenefits](#).

We encourage you to share this email with a friend. We have provided additional information on the adjustment below:

[VA Compensation Benefit Rate Tables](#) – rate for the following benefit types:

- Veterans Compensation Benefits
- Special Monthly Compensation
- Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Parents DIC
- Automobile Allowance, Clothing Allowance and Medal of Honor
- Birth Defects

[VA Veterans Pension Rate Table](#)

[VA Survivors Pension Rate Table](#)

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Verse of the Day

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:19 KJV

New Veterans for Christ, Inc. Chapter coming soon.

The Veterans for Christ, Inc will be starting a new chapter in the Athens area in the coming months to help veterans less fortunate than ourselves.

For further information on this new chapter email David McKinney at gtp0.148@gmail.com

YOU TOO CAN BE A MEMBER OF THE VETERANS FOR CHRIST, INC.

Sign up online to become an associate member. The annual associate membership of \$120.00 which can be used as a tax deduction for supporters. Registration fees can be paid online through our PayPal account. You will get a free VFC T-shirt with your associate membership. Your tax deductible membership fee will support the VFC mission.

All Honorably Discharged Veterans are welcome to come and observe the VFC; feel free to ask questions and learn more. If we don't know the answer we know someone who does. Please browse our web site www.veteransforchristinc.org. There you'll find information on many subjects of interest to veterans. You'll also find a Newsletter for your branch of service and links to Social Security and many other links with an abundance of information.

Our monthly meetings are held at the Clark-Harrison Bldg. 330 W Ponce Deleon Ave. Decatur, Ga. Our meetings are the third Tuesday of every month and start at 6:30 (PM) for approximately one hour and a half, unless otherwise advertised. We will be respectful of your time.

Thank you for your interest in the VFC. We look forward to communicating and fellowshiping with you soon. We are looking for a corporate sponsor for our VFC Gerald Prince College Scholarship which is donated each September at our Anniversary Luncheon

"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, being men of courage, be strong." 1Cor 16:13

Sincerely,

William A. Harris, Jr.

William A. Harris, Jr., USAF Retired

President, Veterans for Christ, Inc.
www.veteransforchristinc.org