

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



**December 31, 2015**

The Veterans for Christ closed out 2015 with their annual Toy donations to Homeless Veterans children and Incarcerated veterans children though the VA Veterans Affairs satellite office in Conyers. Many Veterans children benefited though this program.

The VFC annual canned food donation was made to Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Many Veterans are fed and housed there nightly.

Pictures are the director Ms. Jenkins and her staff of volunteers and VFC President Elder Harris and VFC Secretary Brother Ray Wynne.



On December 17<sup>th</sup> the Veterans for Christ and the Veterans Affairs Advisory Board of Dekalb County chaired by Dr. Duane Williams celebrated Christmas with a combined Luncheon at Leon's Full Service Restaurant. Prayer, good food and fellowship was what the evening entailed.

## **A letter from the Store Director Robins Commissary**

### **Your Commissary "It's Worth the Trip"**

**Edmonds, Susan M CIV (US) DeCA Central Robins AFB**

Our next On-Site Sale will be held at Ft. Gillem 15-16 January 2016. Times for the sale are Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

Anyone wishing to place a special order must submit their order through e-mail to me no

later than Tuesday 5 January 2016 in order for the product to be ordered and received in time to bring to the sale. Special orders must be ordered by the full case. This does not include fresh meat orders. Please let me know the type of meat, any special cuts, how many packaged in each pack, etc. Be sure to include your name and telephone number so if we have questions we can get in contact with you.

I hope to have a shopping list completed and sent out no later than 11 January.

We appreciate each of you shopping these on-site sales. We look forward to seeing you each month and hope to see you continue to shop. Without your support these sales will not be possible.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Susan M. Edmonds  
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Robins Commissary  
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**COLORADO** -- The two civilian victims killed in [the shooting at a Planned Parenthood on Friday in Colorado](#) were a woman and a man, one of them an Iraq War veteran, [reports CBS Denver](#).

Three people, [including a police officer](#), died when accused gunman [Robert Lewis Dear](#) opened fire at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs.



#### **Slain Colorado cop remembered as man who lived to serve**

That officer, Garrett Swasey, was a member of the University of Colorado Police Department in Colorado Springs. Five other officers and four civilians were wounded in the attack.

CBS Denver reports that one of the civilian victims killed has been identified as Ke'arre Stewart, 29, an Iraq War veteran and a father of two. The other victim has been identified as Jennifer Markovsky.

The father of Jennifer identified her as the second civilian killed. On Facebook, he wrote, "I miss you my daughter, life was too short."

John Ah-King told The Denver Post that his daughter 36-year-old Jennifer Markovsky, was one of three people who died Friday when a gunman opened fire. He said she was accompanying a friend to a Planned Parenthood clinic when she was killed in a shooting rampage.

He described Markovsky as a kind-hearted, lovable person with two children.

Leyonte Chandler told CBS News' David Begnaud his older brother Ke'arre was one of the three people killed.

"I'm crushed, man. Just crushed," he said. "Almost half a million people here and it happened to be my brother out of all these people-- random."



CBS NEWS

Stewart's sister, Temprest Llyod, told [CBS affiliate KKT](#) that Stewart was outside Planned Parenthood making a phone call because he didn't have service in the building. He was shot by the gunman, ran inside and was the person who told everyone to get down, get into rooms and called 911.

Stewart was accompanying someone at the clinic when he was killed, said Amburh Butler, a lifelong friend and family spokeswoman.

Stewart leaves behind two girls, 11 and 5, who live in Texas.

Stewart and Butler met when they were 11 in Waco, Texas and were high school sweethearts, she said.

They both joined the Army, but Stewart joined first, right after his high school graduation in 2004, she said. He served in the Fourth Infantry Division and was deployed to Iraq, where he would often send her letters describing the horrors he saw on the front lines.

"He would tell me how terrible it was, how many guys he watched die. It was terrible for him," Butler said.

The Army stationed Stewart at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs in 2013, she said.

He was discharged from the military the following year. "He went someplace where people expect to die, only to come back ... and be killed."

Butler said she last spoke to her friend on Thursday, when he sounded upbeat to be spending Thanksgiving with friends.

"He was just a standup guy, he would take a bullet for you," Butler said. "He was the most sincere person I'd ever met."

A dramatic standoff with police ended after five hours.

The suspected gunman, Robert Lewis Dear of North Carolina, is in custody. He was booked into the El Paso County Jail, was being held without bail and was scheduled to appear in court Monday.



Robert Lewis Dear, 57, of North Carolina is seen in a booking photo released by the Colorado Springs Police Department.

Sources told CBS News that Dear surrendered Friday after realizing that he was cornered and had nowhere to run. Since then, he's been cooperating with investigators.

Swasey's body was transported under heavy police escort to a local funeral home Saturday morning.

Frightening moments were captured on police scanners after authorities say Dear opened fire on officers who were responding to reports of an active shooter:



### **Carson on Planned Parenthood shooting: "Hateful rhetoric is detrimental"**

"He's shooting at you as you coming in.

"I've been shot. I'm hit!"

With the gunman still on the loose inside the Colorado Springs [Planned Parenthood](#), police were able to rescue people hiding inside the building, including Katanya Craion.

"I heard everyone in the lobby screaming 'get down, get down,' and then I saw the gunman walking with a shotgun just shooting randomly," she said.

Said Ozy Licano: "He was aiming for my head. It's just weird to stare into the face of somebody like that, and he didn't win."

"While this was a terrible, terrible tragedy," said Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers, "it could have been much worse but for the actions of the first responders, particularly the police officers involved."

The situation was further complicated because law enforcement was concerned the gunman brought explosives.

Swasey, the officer who died, leaves behind a wife, a son and a daughter.

## **Planned Parenthood shooting suspect talking to police**

"The family of Officer Garrett Swasey sincerely thanks everyone for their support during this very difficult time. Our loss cannot be expressed in words. While the nation now knows Garrett as a hero who gave his life for others, he was also a devoted husband of 17 years and a wonderful father to his two children," Swasey's family said in a statement.

On Sunday, Planned Parenthood said Dear's words matched the ["hateful rhetoric" GOP presidential candidates](#) and many conservative leaders have been using since controversial and contested [videos taped by undercover anti-abortion activists discussing the procurement of fetal body parts](#) for medical research with Planned Parenthood staff were released.

In a press release, Dawn Laguens, executive vice president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said: "It is offensive and outrageous that some politicians are now claiming this tragedy has nothing to do with the toxic environment they helped create. Even when the gunman was still inside of our health center, politicians who have long opposed safe and legal abortion were on television pushing their campaign to defund Planned Parenthood and invoking the discredited video smear campaign that reportedly fed this shooter's rage."

As he was being led away following [the deadly assault](#) Dear reportedly told officers: "no more baby parts."

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## **Soldier who lost 4 limbs aims to inspire others with book**

AUGUSTA, Maine — A soldier who lost all four limbs during an explosion in Afghanistan aims to inspire others with the story of how he recovered from the wounds, picked up the pieces and began helping other amputees.



Retired Army Staff Sgt. Travis Mills smiles as he signs a book at an event promoting his book, "Tough As They Come," on Dec. 1, in Augusta, Maine. (Photo: David Sharp/AP)

With his book, "Tough As They Come," he's added author to his accomplishments. Travis Mills is raising his family, delivering motivational speeches and helping other wounded warriors through his foundation.

"My message is pretty clear. Never give up. Never quit. Find your motivation. Find your goals. And keep moving," he said Tuesday.

He joked with people at a bookstore, patiently signing books with a Sharpie, using his prosthetic hand. He's right-handed and the prosthesis is on the left hand, making it even more difficult to write.

Mills, 28, was an Army staff sergeant with the 82nd Airborne Division on his third deployment when an improvised explosive detonated when he dropped his backpack on the ground during a foot patrol on April 10, 2012. The blast disintegrated his right arm and leg. His other leg dangled and his remaining wrist was shredded.

Retired Army Staff Sgt. Travis Mills smiles as he signs a book at an event promoting his book, "Tough As They Come," on Dec. 1, in Augusta, Maine. (Photo: David Sharp/AP)

The former 6-foot-3, 230-pound athlete awoke four days later, on his 25th birthday, to learn he had no limbs. He endured 19 months of rehabilitation. He told his wife to leave, but she stayed by his side.

Mills isn't alone in having lost parts of all four limbs. He's one of five quadruple amputees to survive the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he's met the others.

Mills' recovery was remarkable. He's been snowboarding and mountain biking. He's jumped out of planes. He's started a foundation that bought property formerly owned by fragrance designer Elizabeth Arden with a goal of transforming it into a fully accessible summer camp to help other wounded veterans.

He's visited war amputees at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and traveled to Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston to meet with Boston Marathon bombing victims who lost limbs.

He's happy to be able to provide hope.

"I'm able to inspire and change people. I don't do it by saying, 'You think you have it bad? Then look at me.' I'll never play that card," Mills said.

Collaborating with Marcus Brotherton on a book that Mills describes as equal parts "Saving Private Ryan" and "Forrest Gump" seemed like a logical step because others draw inspiration from the story of a small-town boy from Vashar, Michigan, who's managed to maintain a positive outlook after debilitating injuries.

**Using his prosthetic arm, retired Army Staff Sgt. Travis Mills signs a book at an event promoting his book, "Tough As They Come," on Dec. 1, in Augusta, Maine. (Photo: David Sharp/AP)**

Tuesday's book-signing event was his first. Signings also are planned this month in Texas, where he lived after leaving the hospitals, and in Michigan.

Mills said part of maintaining a positive outlook is keeping things in perspective. He said he's lucky that modern medical care saved his life. He's grateful that his wife, Kelsey, stuck with him. He's happy to be able to make waffles for breakfast and to drive his 4-year-old daughter Chloe to pre-school every day. He and his family now live in Manchester, Maine.

It's common for people to refer to Mills as a "wounded warrior."

He said he's living with scars, but he's no longer wounded.

"I don't want people to pity me. I'm not a sob story. People need to understand that it's up to them to change their outlook on life and how they view themselves," he said.

By David Sharp, The Associated Press 5:49 p.m. EST December 1, 2015

## **Pomona Police: Clarence Duwell Dear Suspected of Setting Woman Ablaze**

BY CASSANDRA VINOGRAD

Police on Saturday were hunting an "extremely dangerous" man suspected of killing a California woman by setting her ablaze. The Pomona Police Department said it had launched a murder investigation into the Christmas-

Day crime and named 51-year-old Clarence Duwell Dear as a suspect.



Clarence Duwell Dear is shown in a photo provided by the Pomona Police Dept. Pomona Police Dept.

Officers were called to a residence in Pomona shortly before 2 p.m. local time on Friday following reports that a woman had been set on fire, according to a statement from police. It said neighbors "who saw the victim run from the residence engulfed in flames" had tried to administer assistance as she collapsed in the street until local fire personnel arrived. Police said the victim — a 41-year-old Pomona resident — was treated for severe burns but succumbed to her injuries at a local hospital. Preliminary information suggested that an argument between the suspect and victim had escalated to physical violence, according to police. "It appears that during a domestic dispute, the suspect chased the victim from their residence and was able to douse the victim with gasoline," the statement said. Dear is believed to have fled the scene and is "considered to be extremely dangerous," the statement added.

#### **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](http://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 fellowshipping 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.*

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President, Veterans for Christ, Inc.

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