



Bucks County Veteran's Voice

Frank Yocum is all smiles at the Ground Breaking Ceremony to rebuild his burned out home.



**A MARINE NEVER LEAVES A
MARINE BEHIND.....**

A Marine never leaves a Marine behind

Lower Southampton—Frank Yocum said he never expected it.

But on Saturday, along the Lower Southampton banks of the Neshaminy Creek, the disabled Vietnam veteran and some new friends ceremoniously broke ground on his new home.

One of his daughters wept. Yocum, 55, quietly said “Thank you.” Gray-haired men said a “Marine never leaves a Marine behind.”

Yocum’s home, which burnt down from electrical problems in February, had provided some of the only calm he had known since the war. His new house is being built with donations from Bucks County residents, veterans, businesses, and unions.

“It’s overwhelming,” said Debbie McGinley, one of Yocum’s daughters. “We didn’t know any of these people.”

Yocum didn’t have homeowners insurance. His war injuries prevented him from earning an income that could help rebuild his home. His daughters didn’t have that kind of money either.

“I felt like I was in a coma,” Yocum said of the day after the blaze. “I didn’t even want to get up. I didn’t know what was going to happen.”

The children living around Yocum in this tight-knit community of winterized cabins raised \$150.00 in small bills. Yocum’s daughters started a fund to rebuild his home. An article in the Courier times followed.

Joe Hogan and Harry Prasch, both Bristol township Vietnam veterans, reached out to their fellow Marine, whom they didn’t know, to strategize a larger fund-raising effort.

Meanwhile, the area’s vast veteran network hummed with talk. Dan Fraley, Director of Bucks County Veterans Affairs office, was peppered with call from military veterans. At the very least, they wanted Yocum to regain his war medals, including two Purple Hearts, claimed by the fire.

In Vietnam, shrapnel from a Viet Cong Booby trap had ripped through Yocum’s body, nearly killing him.

Personal checks, anywhere from \$20 to \$2,000, streamed into the fund. Local companies and unions offered materials and labor. Prasch, Hogan and Yocum’s neighbors organized a beef –and-beef fund-raiser. The fund swelled to more than \$10,000. Bucks County Commissioner Jim Cawley and Vern Rider of Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick’s office awarded Yocum with the war medals he had lost.

Fraley contacted the Department of Veterans Affairs and increased Yocum’s disability status from 60 percent to 100 percent—something Fraley said Yocum was eligible for “a long time ago.”

The effort reached its zenith when Semper Fi Homes became involved. The new, grassroots nonprofit provides services for disabled veterans.

Receiving free materials and labor from a slew of unions and companies, the Levittown-based organization is managing the re-building of Yocum’s new home.

“The true measure of the depth of our community,” Cawley said Saturday, “is how we treat our veterans.”

Article taken from: *Bucks County Courier Times*

Ben Finley



Local veterans along with Verne Rider, Representative from Congressman Fitzpatrick’s office, County Commissioner Jim Cawley, and Dan Fraley, Director of Veterans Affairs break ground for Frank’s new home.

National Veterans Cemetery



Currently, 3 sites in Southeastern Pennsylvania are being considered for a National Veteran's Cemetery.

In Chester County, Pennhurst, the former mental health facility is being considered, which comes with many environmental issues. The clean-up cost affiliated with this site will be astronomical.

The remaining 2 sites are in Bucks County. The Riegelsville site is located on a 200 acre site owned by St. Lawrence Catholic Church. The Federal Government is in the process of doing environmental studies which will determine usability. It is expected that the site will easily pass the test. The second site in Bucks County is the Dolington trac located in Upper Makefield Township. This 200 acre site is ideal because of its accesability to Interstate 95 and the rest of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

The Dolington site seems to be the favorable site for Bucks County veterans. A Committee supporting the Dolington trac has submitted petitions containing 4,500 signatures to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and also our US Representatives.

Veterans History Project

Senior Adults for Greater Education (SAGE) is requesting that interested WW II veterans who would be willing to be interviewed by Council Rock students contact Beryl Katz at (215) 357-2332. SAGE is participating in a new project to preserve our history. This project follows the format call "Veterans History Project".

"We have already lost 75% of the WWII veterans. It is important that the history of WW II and the experiences of our veterans be preserved and remembered." says Harry Neiman, SAGE volunteer and veteran.

Council Rock students are anxious to learn more about history from those who were a part of it and made it. If you would like to be interviewed, please contact SAGE at (215) 357-2332. You will then be contacted to arrange a time for an interview. The information will be preserved and used for the education of our students.

FLU SHOT SCHEDULE



December 8, 2005

9:00 am – 2:00 pm – You **MUST** call to schedule an appointment

Health Department
1282 Almshouse Rd.
Route 611 & Almshouse Rd.
Doylestown, PA 18901
(215) 345-3344

Health Department
7321 New Falls Road
Levittown, PA 19055
(215) 949-5806

December 9, 2005

9:00 am – 2:00 pm - You **MUST** call to schedule an appointment

Health Department
515 South West End Boulevard (Rt. 309)
Quakertown, PA 18951
(215) 536-6500

Bucks County Employee Award of Excellence



Dan Fraley, Director of Veterans Affairs, Commissioner Sandra Miller, Commissioner Charles Martin, Betty Carleo, Commissioner James Cawley

ELIZABETH (BETTY) CARLEO, a Veterans' Aide with the county Department of Military Affairs, helps provide services and assistance to the veterans of Bucks County, but she often goes beyond her assigned duties to help others. Betty welcomes a challenge and tackles new projects with enthusiasm and volunteers for special projects in the department. She always is willing to work extra hours or on weekends. Betty assumed responsibility for the department's new 15-passenger van – a much-needed addition used to transport veterans to area VA hospitals in Philadelphia and Coatesville. She took on much of the responsibility for dispatching the van and scheduling the riders, most of them veterans of World War II, who had frequented the Levittown veterans' clinic before its closing. Driving to distant VA hospitals created a problem for some and the van service was added in 2001. Since then, nearly 4,000 veterans have received free transportation to the VA hospitals for exams and treatment, largely helped through Betty's efforts and organizational skills. She also was instrumental in ensuring the success of veterans' bus trips to the World War II memorial in Washington and the department's fundraising golf tournament, as well as in the daily operation of the office. Betty is capable and caring when it comes to our veterans and continues to show a desire and an ability to go the extra mile.

Copy taken from Commissioner's Citation read during Employee Recognition Day Program.

Bucks County Veteran's Van

Daily Schedule – (Pre-registration is required)



Monday- Philadelphia VA Hospital

7:15 AM – Leave Doylestown Veteran Affairs Office – Neshaminy Manor Center
8:15 AM – Leave Levittown Clinic – Government Services Center – New Falls Rd.
8:30 AM – Leave Bensalem Senior Activity Center (NEW) – Byberry Road
9:30AM – Arrive at Hospital

Tuesday- Philadelphia VA Hospital

7:15 AM – Leave Doylestown Veteran Affairs Office – Neshaminy Manor Center
8:15 AM – Leave Levittown Clinic – Government Services Center – New Falls Rd.
8:30 AM – Leave Bensalem Senior Activity Center (NEW) Byberry Road
9:30AM – Arrive at Hospital

Wednesday – Coatesville VA Hospital

7:15 AM – Leave Doylestown Veteran Affairs Office – Neshaminy Manor Center
8:00AM – Leave Quakertown Government Services Center – West End Blvd.
9:30AM– Arrive at Hospital

Thursday – Coatesville VA Hospital

7:15 AM – Leave Doylestown Veteran Affairs Office – Neshaminy Manor Center
8:00 AM – Leave Quakertown Government Services Center – West End Blvd.
9:30 AM – Arrive at Hospital

Friday – Coatesville VA Hospital

7:15 AM – Leave Doylestown Veteran Affairs Office – Neshaminy Manor Center
8:00 AM – Leave Quakertown Government Services Center – West End Blvd.
9:30 AM – Arrive at Hospital

Van Service subject to Weather conditions and County Holidays.

The Van will start its return trip daily at 2:00pm sharp. Veterans should make all appointments between 9:30am – Noon as the Van will start its return trip early afternoon. Please call Betty at 215-345-3885 at least 2 weeks before your appointment to schedule your transportation.

Veteran's Golf Outing May 2005

On May 26, 2005, approximately 90 golfers hit the greens in support of our Veteran's Transportation Program. As an added bonus they were treated to an Air Show by The Blue Angels and Meryl Reese, our special guest speaker.

Our Transportation program will continue to offer FREE transportation to Bucks County veterans to Coatesville & Philadelphia VA Medical Centers.

Major Sponsors:

V.F.W. Post 175

Chapman C & C Ford

McGrath Construction

Lafferty Chevrolet

Liberty Bell Chapter Ex-POWs

Carney Construction

Bucks County Property Management
Bill & Mary Clark –Liberty Bell Ex-POW
V.F.W. Post #6493
John McGrath—Liberty Bell Ex-POW
State Representative Matt Wright
Cay Burns—Liberty Bell Ex-POW
McGrath Construction
Apex Collision
Military Order of the Purple Heart—Chapter 170
State Representative Gene DiGirolamo
V.F. W. Post 175
1st Marine Division—Liberty Bell Chapter
Paist & Noe Insurance
In Memory of Dave Gower
First Federal Savings of Bucks County
All Glass Systems
Kirk & Nice Funeral Home

Joseph Schumacker Post
Delaware Valley Vietnam Veterans
Korean War Veterans—Chapter 114
State Representative Kathy Watson
John Keepers—
Harris Fuels
Carroll Engineering
Tomlinson for State Senate
William Penn Savings & Loan
Marte & Toadvine
K.E. Seifert, Inc.
JDM Materials
Fegelson Young Post 697
Clyde & Gloria Waite
Besco
Bob Shaw Signs

Veterans Transportation Donations...

We are accepting donations for the long-term operation of the Bucks County Veteran's Van. We are funded for the next few years and we want to continue taking veterans to VA hospitals well into the future.

Your donation is deductible and will go only to the operation of this vehicle as there is no administration cost. If you wish to make a tax deductible contribution, please make check payable to:

County of Bucks—Veterans Transportation

Mail To:
Department of Veterans Affairs
Neshaminy Manor Center, Bldg. K
Doylestown, PA 18901



Bucks County Veterans' Voice

This newsletter is published by the Bucks County Office of Military Affairs. Subscriptions are available free of charge by Calling 215-345-3307.

County of Bucks Office of Military Affairs

Dan Fraley
Director

Doylestown

Route 611 and Almshouse Road
Neshaminy Manor Complex, Building K
215-345-3307 or 215-345-3885
Fax # 215-345-3833

Quakertown

Bucks County Government Services Center
515 West End Boulevard
215-345-3307 or 215-345-3885

Levittown

Bucks County Government Services Center
7321 New Falls Road
215-949-5800/Ext. 249
FAX : 215-949-5819

www.buckscounty.org

County Commissioners: Charles Martin, Chairman, James Cawley, Jr. and Sandra Miller

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, No matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were Treated and Appreciated by their nations."
~George Washington~

County of Bucks
Office of Military Affairs
Neshaminy Manor Center
Route 611 & Almshouse Road
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

