



SHORT BURSTS



What is a Veteran?

A Veteran, whether active duty, discharged, retired or reserve is someone who at one point in their life, wrote a blank check payable to "The United States of America" for an amount of "up to, and including their life"

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Currently the Major General Boyd M. Cook Veterans Memorial Foundation is a central communication and clearing house for providing information and assistance to deployed Maryland Active Duty and Reserve Armed Forces and their families. The Foundation's mission is to identify U. S. Armed Forces active duty and reserve component veterans and their families in need of



MG Boyd M. Cook

assistance not available from the Department of Defense or the Veterans Administration, validate the need for assistance, and coordinate assis-

tance with federal, state and local community organizations. Priority is given to those called to engage in armed conflict since 2001. Veterans who need assistance should access the Foundation's web site, www.mgbc-md.org or direct phone number - (1) 877-99-4VETS (8387). (See Website story below)

COOK FOUNDATION WEBSITE NOW

A new website (www.mgbc-md.org) describing the mission, history and goals of the Major General Boyd M. Cook Veterans Memorial Foundation was placed on the World Wide Web on April 18 of this year. The featured goal of the website is to provide easy access information tabs for Vet-

erans to use to obtain information and assistance needed for them and/or families in a quick and orderly fashion. Priority is placed on Veterans after 2001 (particularly Afghanistan/Iraqi Veterans and their families). The web site provides a contact point for immediate as-

sistance from a staff member. Further assistance information can be gained through an online form.

The following tabs are featured:

The HOME PAGE tab: Veterans will be able to get immediate help and access

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HOW WE HAVE HELPED VETERANS



A Maryland Veteran lost his job in Ohio as truck driver due to the company going out of business. The company agreed to pay transportation for the Veteran and his family to Maryland. The Veteran and his family boarded a bus to Baltimore with only what they could carry in suitcases. Once arrived in Baltimore, the family needed a place to stay for 3 nights in order to make arrangements with relatives. The Foundation supported the costs at a motel near the city.

An on-duty soldier requested assistance with a car purchase. He had added to his family by taking on the custody of 2 other children from an earlier marriage. The family lives in Maryland but he is currently stationed at Ft. Dix, NJ. The family has a small car but is now in need of a larger vehicle. The Foundation is in the process of assisting him purchase the larger vehicle.

A Veteran needed assistance with his health insurance bill. The insurance was in jeopardy of lapsing due to the Veteran's discharge. The Foundation issued a 90-day note to the Veteran in the amount of the insurance costs.

Veterans Service Organizations are working with the Foundation to assist Veterans in their Maryland home locale. Any request to The Foundation, either through the web site or by telephone, is passed on to a VSO in the Veteran's zip code area. The request is then vetted and processed by the VSO. If the request is out of the ordinary or cannot be processed by the VSO, assistance will be arranged directly through the Foundation or other organization.



Contributions to the Foundation

Can you help us support veteran's financial needs? As initially established in Frederick County, all donations received from Frederick County residents were only distributed to service members who reside in Frederick County or are stationed in Frederick County. The Foundation has now expanded statewide and is seeking statewide donations.

Auto Donations - A Donate Your Car program was successfully tested in Frederick County. The Foundation is now in the proc-

ess of expanding statewide with the same rules - all donations received from a specific county will be distributed in that specific county and can be claimed as in IRS tax deduction as explained on the MGBC web page. In the interim, car donations can be made state-wide by calling 1 (800) 638-1234. If you know of anyone who is a candidate to donate a vehicle, please consider directing them to the Foundation.

Frederick Elks Contribution - The Frederick Elks held a golf

tournament at Hollow Creek Golf Course on Monday, July 27 2009, which benefited the MGBC Foundation. Thirty-five golfers raised \$645, much of this amount coming from prize money that was donated by those who won. Foundation Board member Tommy Grunwell started the "avalanche" of donations, which was quickly followed in kind by fellow Elks. The golfers stated they were proud to be a part of the support of the MGBC Foundation, which they felt is on the right

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Contributions to the Foundation

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track in supporting Veterans and their families.

Kiosk Program – This program provides a five-sided transportable kiosk, which features one side for each branch of service. Military Branch Flags fly from each side and current pictures from local service members are displayed from Iraq and Afghanistan. These kiosks are envisioned to be placed in strategic areas to provide information about the MGBC Foundation assistance program and how donations are used to support Veterans. A kiosk was placed at “Family Day” at Fort

Detrick to provide Foundation assistance information to Bravo Company Marines and their families.

Radio Announcements - The Foundation expects to begin interviews on talk show radio programs soon. In addition to providing veteran information on radio broadcasts, Frederick Ford and Tate Chrysler has agreed to be our contact points to receive calls from listeners on instructions on how to donate or leave donations for the Foundation at their dealership. The Foundation envisions this program to be another way of identifying service members who may need assistance and

provide compelling donation messages.

Golf Tournament – The First Annual Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Benefit Golf Tournament to benefit the MGBC Foundation will be held Friday, October 16, 2009 at the Mountain View Country Club, Fairfield, PA 17320. Registration will be at 8 a.m. and tee off at 9 a.m. The format is best ball four-man scramble. The entry fee is \$60 per golfer. The entry fee includes: round of golf, golf cart, goodie bag, refreshments all day, home cooked meal, door prizes and raffle. Contact Mike Mahoney at 717 642 6025 or 717 387 1927.

COOK FOUNDATION WEBSITE NOW ACTIVE

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important information. A contact point is provided for immediate assistance. Further assistance information can be gained through an online form.

The ABOUT US tab: Veterans will find a toll free number (1 877-99-4VETS (8387) to use for a live conversation to answer questions they may have. The MGBC Brochure and Newsletter are also on the web page so that interested individuals may stay abreast of all the happenings in the organization including efforts in fund raising.

The HISTORY tab: Veterans can read about the Foundation and

how and why it was initiated. The tab also describes an important immediate goal for the current year, to have Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) throughout the state of Maryland handling the immediate needs of each of the requestors. The plan is to access the proper VSO by the veteran's zip code. Currently the VSO listing is not complete but is expected to be finished by Fall.

The VSO tab: this is where all zip codes will be listed with points of contacts for each zip code. At the present time, VSO information for just the state of Maryland is available.

WEB LINK tab: This tab provides other organizations that might also be able to help the veterans in need.

SERVICES OFFERED tab: This tab provides a list of job opportunities for veterans and the links to various companies and organizations offering them. Board of Directors member Richard Cody currently chairing a Cook Foundation/Rotary International program to identify and list job availability for veterans.

The CONTACT US tab: This tab provides information as to where the veterans can contact the Foundation to get assistance.

Who better to help Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans than Veterans from another time.

October 16 – First Annual Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Benefit Golf Tournament, Friday, October 16, 2009 at the Mountain View Country Club, Fairfield, PA 17320.



Maryland National Guard Pledges Cooperation



General Jim Adkins

Adjutant General Jim Adkins of the Maryland National Guard has authorized the distribution of the newsletter to all Maryland National Guard Members. The Foundation also recently met in Baltimore with Brg. Gen. Annette Deener, (Deputy Ass't. to Gen Adkins of the MD National Guard) and three of her staff to exchange ideas to benefit families of deployed troops. These staff members are assigned to soldiers returning from active duty. The new law requires that returning military personnel go through 30-90 days of screening to ensure they have no problems in reentering civilian life. Cols.

Stevens and Kohler and Sgt. Ankeny talk on a regular basis with not only the returning soldier, but with the family members to ensure their needs are being met. If they identify a problem, the family will then be referred to the Foundation for help.



Brg. Gen. Annette Deener

Foundation Fundraiser at Frederick County Fair

A recent fundraiser at the Great Frederick County Fair raised a total of \$1,130.60. The theme was honoring our veterans with a display of 25 humorous photos taken by our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

When the Foundation's Treasurer, Norm Showers, a WWII veteran, found out that the Foundation had obtained space for a booth at the Great Frederick County Fair, he immediately began the booth construction at his home workshop. A task force of Norm, Dan Oaks, Bran Thompson, Bill Castle and Tommy Grunwell carried the finished product to the fairgrounds and set up the booth. During the fair, 13 MGBC Foundation volunteers staffed the booth. On Tuesday and Thursday, the booth was manned by volunteers from the Middletown and Thurmont AMVETS.



Vice president Dan Oaks at the Foundation booth

For the asking, one copy of a photograph was distributed to fair-goers as they walked past the booth. Donations were requested if multiple copies were requested. In addition, Bill Castle obtained raffle donations from 8 local businesses, which were given away the final night of the fair.



October 2009 BULLETIN BOARD



The Major General Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation, Inc. (MGBC Foundation)

Is a nonprofit volunteer organization manned by volunteer veterans.

How To Contact Us

Visit us at our MGBC Web Page (mgbc-md.org) which includes an option to send an email to us, or give us a call at (1) 877-99-4VETS (8387). Our members are all volunteers with busy schedules so we use an answering service to accept your call.

We normally return your call within the next work day unless you tell them your call is urgent, we will call you back ASAP.

Find Neighborhood help by your ZIP CODE

(Should be in effect by end of May) Our web page will list all Maryland ZIP CODES followed with Veteran's Posts that serve veterans in specific zip codes. For veterans that do not reside in Maryland, use the zip code of your unit to receive local help or contact the Pentagon at:

Military OneSource (MOS)24/7 call (1) 800-342-9647 or visit at www.militaryonesource.com for assistance including counseling.

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs' Links

www.mdva.state.md.us

Get DD Form 214 Copies
Assisted Living/Nursing Homes
Burial Benefits
Claims Assistance
GI Bill & Scholarships
Employment & Business Help
Health Care
License Plates
Survival Benefits
Tax Benefits
Additional State Benefits

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

I recall a theme from the Loyal Order of Moose that says: "No man stands so tall as when he stoops to pick up a child." By extrapolating that theme to fit our goals: provide assistance to Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans and their families in solving the myriad of problems they face. We are proud to be standing tall along with volunteers who are taking the time to assist all veterans. Having said that, I'm proud to be one of those volunteers and look forward to any ideas from anyone on how we can improve our program.

Bran Thompson CSM, USA, Retired

Worthwhile Military Information

Military Newsletter—Add newsltr@milnews.com to your address book to ensure delivery of www.Military.Com Newsletters

The Military Order of the Purple Heart—launched a new website at www.VetsJobs.net to assist Veterans in obtaining Federal employment.

America Supports You—is one of several initiatives managed by the Department of Defense's Community Relations Division. With "America Supports You" returning to its original intent of communication, all ASY information now may be found in the Citizen Support for Our Troops section. Learn more at: www.americasupportsyoudil

United States Veterans Administration news and services-www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/opa_ListServ.asp

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