



# THE VETERANS BREAKFAST CLUB

SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

## TRAVEL WITH THE VBC TO EUROPE!

SEPTEMBER 11-25, 2018

Travel with the VBC on our WWII Battlefield Tour of Europe this September as we follow the footsteps of the Band of Brothers, from Normandy to the Eagle's Nest in the Bavarian Alps. **WWII veteran Warren Goss, who landed on Utah Beach on D-Day and fought his way to Germany, will accompany us and be our guide as we tour the Normandy beaches and other sites.** We'll also see Paris, Versailles, Eindhoven, Holland, Bastogne, Belgium, Luxembourg, Heidelberg, Stuttgart, and Berchtesgaden before celebrating Oktoberfest in Munich! The Trip of a Lifetime.

Land Tour Rate: \$5,495  
Optional Roundtrip Air: \$1,150  
Deposit Due: June 30  
For questions, details, and the full itinerary, go to [VeteransBreakfastClub.com](http://VeteransBreakfastClub.com) or contact Todd at [todd@veteransbreakfastclub.com](mailto:todd@veteransbreakfastclub.com) or 412-623-9029.



DETAILS INSIDE (PAGE 4)



Warren had the photo on the left taken after the Normandy Invasion in June 1944. He sent it to his mother with a note on the back: "I made it." On the right is Warren telling his story at a VBC event.

## A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Our 10th anniversary year has featured unforgettable stories so far: two 101-year-old veterans—Austin McGrath (Navy SeaBees) and Joseph Wilbon (Army Air Corps)—shared their memories of WWII. Tom Holzer told us about his M42 Duster in Vietnam. Lee Vega testified about what her five years in the Army taught her. Marine Gus Melis came forward about his combat experiences for the first time, including the horrible Battle of Dai Do in

1968. Stan Williamson recalled his 20-year Navy career that took him to 55 countries. And Eric Howze spoke movingly about his struggle with homelessness after returning from Iraq. These were just a few of the remarkable memories shared at our spring events, not to mention the hilarious Boot Camp stories. We have much more to come this summer. All our events are open to the public, and everyone is welcome. Join us!

*Todd DePastino*  
Executive Director

### EVENT DETAILS INSIDE

VBC 10th Anniversary Celebration, WWII Battlefield Tour of Europe, VBC Breakfasts, VBC at Night, "Bridging the Gap" panel discussions, and more!

### ALL ARE WELCOME!

Breakfasts begin at 8:30 A.M. \$12 for breakfast at all locations unless otherwise noted. Just to attend is free.

FIND OUR UPDATED SCHEDULE, PHOTOS, STORIES AND MORE AT [VETERANSBREAKFASTCLUB.COM](http://VETERANSBREAKFASTCLUB.COM)

# UPCOMING MORNING EVENTS

**RSVP FOR  
ALL EVENTS TO**  
**lauren@veteransbreakfast  
club.com or 412-623-9029**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 9**  
**8:30-10:30am**

**FREE BREAKFAST** at the Spring Valley Community, Fayette County 100 Spring Valley Road, Farmington, PA 15437. Just off Farmington-Ohiopyle Road/Rt.-381. Follow signs to the dining hall. RSVP to Lauren at 412-623-9029 or lauren@veteransbreakfastclub.com

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13**  
**8:30-10:30am**

Christ Church at Grove Farm (249 Duff Rd, Sewickley 15143)  
Directions: I-79 to Exit 68, east on Mt. Nebo Rd 1/2 mile, right on Duff Rd.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 19**  
**8:30-10:30am**

Christ United Methodist Church (44 Highland Rd, Bethel Park, 15102)

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 4**  
**9-11am**

**FREE BREAKFAST** in Johnstown! Conemaugh Township Fire Department, 1942 Kring St, Tire Hill, PA 15959 (Richland American Legion Post #849 providing breakfast).

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 11**  
**9-11AM**

**FREE EVENT:** Mars VFW 331 Mars Valencia Road, Mars, PA 16046.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 18**  
**8:30-10:30am**

RMU Yorktown Hall (former Holiday Inn, 8256 University Blvd, Moon 15108)

**TUESDAY, JULY 24**  
**8:30-10:30am**

Christ United Methodist Church (44 Highland Rd, Bethel Park, 15102)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1**  
**8:30-10:30am**

Seven Oaks Country Club (132 Lisbon Rd, Beaver 15009)

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 4**  
**8-10am**

**NEW LOCATION:** Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, 1450 S Atherton St, State College, PA 16801. This event is underwritten by the generous support of the Pennsylvania State Society Children of the American Revolution. Veterans will eat **FREE**, non-veterans cost is \$16.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 10**  
**8:30-10:30am**

Comfort Inn Conference Center (699 Rodi Rd, Penn Hills 15235)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15**  
**8:30-10:30am**

Memorial Park Presbyterian Church (8800 Peebles Rd, Allison Park 15101)

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 28**  
**8:30-10:30am**

Salvatore's Banquets (5001 Curry Rd, Baldwin 15236)

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**  
**8:30-10:30am**

Breakfast at the 911th Airlift Wing on September 11 MWR Club, 911th Airlift Wing, 2475 Defense Avenue, Coraopolis, PA 15108, United States Breakfast and stories at the MWR Club! **COST: \$15. RSVP REQUIRED. MUST PRE-PAY BY September 2.** Send names and birthdates of all attendees with check for \$15/per person, payable to "Veterans Breakfast Club," 200 Magnolia Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15228. All attendees **MUST** present valid photo ID with birthdate to enter base. Retired military may enter without sending birthdate ahead of time. For more info, call: 412-623-9029 Email: todd@veteransbreakfastclub.com



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**  
**9:30-11:30am**

**FREE BREAKFAST!** Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Main in Oakland (4400 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213)

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**  
**8:30-10:30am**

Christ United Methodist Church (44 Highland Rd, Bethel Park, 15102)



# UPCOMING

## VBC AT NIGHT EVENTS

### FREE FOOD, CASH BAR

**THURSDAY, JULY 12**  
7pm

**"Should We Bring Back the Draft?":**

A Community Conversation at  
the Senator John Heinz

History Center

VBC "Bridging the Gap" Event  
in partnership with the Senator  
John Heinz History Center

At a time of a growing Civilian-Military Divide, when one-half of one percent of the population serves on active-duty in the armed forces, an increasing number of voices are calling for re-instating the Draft. Those in favor argue that the Draft would distribute the burdens of military service more equitably across the nation, while those against contend it would weaken our military and divide the country further. This panel discussion convenes experts and veterans to look at all sides of the issue, as well as the history and possible futures of the Draft. Please join us for this lively conversation. Everyone is welcome! *Light refreshments will be served.*



**FRIDAY, JULY 20**  
6:30PM

McMurray VFW Post 764 (460  
Valley Brook Rd, McMurray,  
PA 15317)

**MONDAY, AUGUST 6**  
6:30PM

Spoonwood Brewing (5981  
Baptist Rd, Pittsburgh, PA  
15236)

**Congratulations to  
Harry Van Riper,  
recipient of Penn-  
sylvania American  
Legion 2018 Post  
Chaplain of the  
Year Award!**



## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR YOUR RECENT DONATIONS!

**6th grade Jefferson Middle School**

**American Merchant Marine Veterans, Three  
Rivers Chapter - In memory of Allan DePastino**  
**Hartley Baird**

**Kelly Barber**

**Joe and Rosemarie Capone**

**Fred Castro - In loving memory of WWII veteran**  
**William "Bill" Sharkey**

**Al DeFazio & Valeria Vacula - In loving memory of**  
**my brother, Pat DeFazio, Battle of the Bulge**  
**Ethel Deiuliis**

**Patricia Doherty - In loving memory of WWII veter-  
an William "Bill" Sharkey**

**Gayle Woodward Ferree and Family - In loving**  
**memory of WWII veteran William "Bill" Sharkey**

**Jane Frankel - In honor of Joseph Zimbicki's 100th**  
**Birthday!**

**George Freas**

**Antia Gervasi & children - In memory of Louis Vin-  
cent Pugliese, Navy, Aug. 19, 1929-Jan. 10, 2018**

**Blair Jacobson**

**Chuck Jenkins - In memory of the 14 Marines of Del-  
ta Co., 1st Bn, 5th Marines KIA in Battle of Hue City**

**Chuck Jenkins - In memory of the 19 Marines of**  
**Delta Co, 1st Bn, 5th Marines, KIA May 12, 1967, Oper-  
ation Union I, Semper Fi**

**Lynne Johnson**

**Bill Laughner**

**Andy Loeb**

**Margaret Mailey & Rhonda Rombach - In loving**  
**memory of WWII veteran William "Bill" Sharkey**

**Bob O'Gara**

**Ned Pfundt - In memory of George Kokiko**

**Pittsburgh Banjo Club - In honor of Bob Fritsch,**  
**Korean War veteran**

**Alfiero Pollice**

**Bob Riordan**

**David Schreiber - In loving memory of WWII veter-  
an William "Bill" Sharkey**

**Lee Silverman**

**Sandy & Dom Simonetti - In loving memory of**  
**WWII veteran William "Bill" Sharkey**

**Connor Smith - G/2/5 Forever!**

**Charles Smithers**

**Sharon Steinmetz**

**Bobb Stevens**

**Timothy & Mary Lou Sullivan - In loving memory**  
**of WWII veteran William "Bill" Sharkey**

**Guy Tressler III - In memory of WWII veteran Guy**  
**Tressler**

**Turbo-Air Refrigeration - In loving memory of**  
**WWII veteran William "Bill" Sharkey**

**Walmart Bethel Park**

**Edward Wieszczyński**





# TRAVEL WITH THE VBC TO EUROPE!



**LAND RATE:**  
\$5,495 per person  
Double Occupancy, Single Supplement \$999  
Optional Roundtrip Group Air from Pittsburgh to Paris: \$1,150 (American Airlines via Philadelphia)

**Deposit Due:**  
**June 30**

Travel with the VBC on our WWII Battlefield Tour of Europe this September as we follow the footsteps of the Band of Brothers, from Normandy to the Eagle's Nest in the Bavarian Alps. Todd DePastino, Director of the Veterans Breakfast Club, will serve as the Historian on the trip, accompanied by local guides and experts all along the way, including D-Day veteran, Warren Goss. The Trip of a Lifetime.

For questions, details, and the full itinerary, go to [VeteransBreakfastClub.com](http://VeteransBreakfastClub.com) or contact Todd at [todd@veteransbreakfastclub.com](mailto:todd@veteransbreakfastclub.com) or 412-623-9029.

## ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

- Day 1 Sept 11** Overnight travel to Paris
- Day 2 Sept 12** Champs-Elysees, Arc de Triomphe, Montparnasse Tower, Welcome Dinner
- Day 3 Sept 13** Musee de L'Armee, free afternoon in Paris
- Day 4 Sept 14** Versailles, then Normandy and D-Day Museum, hotel 1k from Omaha Beach
- Day 5 Sept 15** Utah Beach, Roosevelt Café, Brecourt Manor, Ste. Mere-Eglise, Grain Barn apertifs
- Day 6 Sept 16** Overlord Museum, Pointe du Hoc, Normandy American Cemetery, Omaha Beach
- Day 7 Sept 17** Normandy to Eindhoven, Holland. Dinner in Eindhoven.
- Day 8 Sept 18** Wings of Liberation Museum, festive "Remember September," Parade of Lights
- Day 9 Sept 19** Belgium Five Points Café, and a tour of the Baugez Crossroads Museum
- Day 10 Sept 20** Bastogne, 101st Museum
- Day 11 Sept 21** Luxembourg, Battle of the Bulge history
- Day 12 Sept 22** American Cemetery in Luxembourg, to Stuttgart, Heidelberg
- Day 13 Sept 23** Dachau and Final Solution, Munich Oktoberfest
- Day 14 Sept 24** Obersalzberg, Bavarian Alps, Hitler's "Eagle's Nest," Farewell Dinner
- Day 15 Sept 25** Final breakfast and return trip home!



# The VBC is celebrating its 10th birthday!

*Please Join Us for this Celebration*



## The Veterans Breakfast Club's **ANNUAL GALA**



### **AUGUST 25, 2018**

**6-11 PM | Springwood Manor | 1000 Indiana Rd, Verona, PA, 15147**

*Cocktail Attire or Military Uniform Suggested*

Since 2008, the Veterans Breakfast Club has hosted over 30,000 people at over 350 storytelling events. They come to listen and to learn, to share and to heal, and to say thank you to those who've served. This year, we've decided to mark our 10th anniversary with a big celebration which will raise funds to support our storytelling programs. The VBC will also honor and recognize four Veteran Voices of the Year, one each from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Global War on Terror eras.

Sponsors:



The Shah-nini George Foundation

Joseph George

Julian Gray Associates

Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home

Manorcare

Interim Healthcare

Leadership Pittsburgh

PA Health and Wellness

**\$65 Veteran Admission**

**\$80 General Admission**

Included in the ticket price are open bar premium wine and beer, hearty hors d'oeuvres, and high quality auction items, all in a stately wooded setting.

Go online for tickets to:

[VeteransBreakfastClub.com/gala](http://VeteransBreakfastClub.com/gala)

or go directly to: [showclix.com/vbc-s-10th-anniversary-gala-celebration](http://showclix.com/vbc-s-10th-anniversary-gala-celebration))  
or

Send check payment to:

Veterans Breakfast Club

200 Magnolia Place

Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Honor, Recognition or Memorial Listing  
Listing in Program \$100 (30 words maximum)

Other sponsorships and ads available:

Program Ads

Half Page \$500 (5" W x 4", b&w)

Full Page \$750 (5" x 8", b&w)

Other opportunities available at the \$7,500, \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,500 levels.

For information on event sponsorship or to confirm your program ad or listing, please contact Lauren Del Ricci at 412.623.9029 or [lauren@veteransbreakfastclub.com](mailto:lauren@veteransbreakfastclub.com).

All program ads and listings are due by August 1, 2018.



# STORIES FROM OUR VETS

## Crossing the Rapido River, 1944

By Al DeFazio

*Albert DeFazio served in World War II in Company A in the 143rd Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division. As the son of immigrants, Al grew up speaking Italian. Drafted into the Army, Al eventually shipped overseas and fought not far from his parents' hometown. The objective was Monte Cassino, which guarded the way to Rome. Al's regiment was given the impossible task of crossing the river beneath the mountain. It made two attempts, so bloody they all but wiped out the regiment. The Battle of Rapido River was one of the great Allied failures of World War II. Al DeFazio survived, and he has shared his story at our VBC events.*

It was the 14th of January, 1944 and it snowed about four inches that night, it was one of the worst winters Italy had in a long time. I was turning nineteen. I didn't tell anyone, didn't want them throwing me a party, as if they could have anyways. We went on watches: four hours on, four hours off. We were in a wooded area and to the right a plateau, it had big rocks. As you looked out, you saw the Rapido River that lead across to Monte Cassino, where there was an ancient abbey.

Now and then the Germans would lob a shell near us. There was a direct hit on one guy in our foxhole. He was only twenty or twenty-five feet from me. It got him right in the heart. He looked up at us and said, "Please, can you help me?" and died right there. That night for some reason I couldn't stop thinking of that kid.

...

Our commanding officer was a redhead. We called him Lt. Spike. He called us together and told us, "I'm your new company commander. Most of you guys will be killed before I even learn your names." That didn't go over well with the guys. I don't think he should have said it . . . but he was right.

Lt. Spike made his rounds to get acquainted with everybody, and he came up to me and my buddy who I went through all of basic training with.

"You two guys look so much alike I can't tell you apart, almost twins," he said, then walked away.

We loaded into rubber rafts and crossed the Rapido. I started forward with my look-alike about five feet to my left and a couple of feet behind me. I didn't see anybody else. Everybody was back at the river, still crossing. So far, there were no shots from the Germans. They must have taken off, I thought to myself.

Then, a shell exploded behind me. The force of it blew me two feet into a drainage ditch full of water. I was stunned

and for a minute I didn't know where I was, but I felt a pain behind me. I stuck my hand back there and my finger felt a hole. Blood. My backpack was shattered, my shirt torn up. I reached back again. Another hole and more blood.

I cast over to my look-alike. His whole back was shot out. He probably took the brunt of it, saving me. I knew he was gone. I'm not sure why, but for the life of me I just can't remember his name. It's been over seventy years since this all has happened and for seventy years I have tried to remember his name. I think because of what I saw and the fact that he became my best buddy, I just blocked it from mind, and for that reason I can't remember his name.

The lieutenant hollered over to me.

"Are you guys all right?"

"No lieutenant," I answered, "I'm hit in two places and my buddy, I think, is gone."

"Get back to the river and get some help," he ordered.

I was so far away from everybody. How in the world was I going to make it back there? Small arms fire, machine guns, everything was coming in heavy. All I could think of was my mother. How would she handle the news of my being wounded . . . or worse?



*Al DeFazio (left) appears in this well-known photo (right) taken in a landing craft at Anzio. Al is in the far left rear of the craft.*

I had to make a decision. Either I had to expose myself to fire and try to get some help or stay in the cover of the ditch and maybe bleed to death. If I was alive in the morning, I reasoned, the Germans would capture me. So, I took a chance and started back.



Gunfire whizzed past me as—through my limping legs, all around. How in the world I didn't get hit I'll never know. The good Lord was with me, I guess.

I had almost reached the river when a shell hit to my left. A GI bounced about a foot off the ground. I detoured to the wounded GI. It was Lt. Spike, shot up pretty bad and moaning. He had taken a direct hit, but he wasn't dead.

I called to another soldier, and we loaded Lt. Spike into a raft and shimmied across the cold high water. A field hospital was miles down river, away from the front lines. We trudged along the riverbank, dragging Lt. Spike's raft in the shallow water. I was hurting, but when you're scared, you can do anything.

We got to the hospital and saw guys lying all over the place, packed inside and out. I caught an orderly walking by.

"We'll take him," the orderly said, glancing at Lt. Spike. "How about you?"

"I'm hit in two places," I told him.

"Will you be alright for a few minutes?" he asked.

"Sure," I replied.

It wasn't long before the orderly came back for me and put me on a stretcher. The doctors and nurses at the field hospital were fantastic. Nurses talked to us and tried to keep us calm.

I will never forget what they did for me. They took me to the operating table and next thing I knew, I woke up in a hospital in Naples.

I received the Bronze Star for my actions that day. But it took sixty years to get it. I did get my Purple Heart right away. I could have kept going back across the river alone, but I knew I had to help the lieutenant.

While recuperating in the hospital, I thought of my look-alike, my best buddy who died in my arms. With nothing to do, I wrote a poem. Here it is below, just how I wrote it. Misspelled words and all.

#### *A Friend Died*

*I crouled out of my hole, when the firing was done I looked for my friend but found only his gun. I looked all around but no one in sight, only the dead men who died in the fight.*

*I herd someone call in the still of the night, there lie my friend neath the stars so bright, I knelt by his side and I picked up his head he looked in my face and the last words he said, please write to my mother and let her know that God has called and I must suddenly go. He gave a last breath and he gave a last sigh and the tears ran down from my eyes. Oh please God in heaven take care of my friend it wasn't his fault that his life had to end. And now that he's gone I feel that I'm lost all get them old jerries no matter the cost.*

About ten years ago, someone gave me a book about my division. It had everyone's names in it. I found Lt. Spike's name: Francis Gorman from Massachusetts, listed as WIA – Wounded in Action. He made it.

The 36th Division failed to cross the Rapido River. Of the 6,000 men who participated, 2,128 were killed or wounded. I got patched up and rejoined the division to fight at Anzio, where I was wounded again, this time for good.

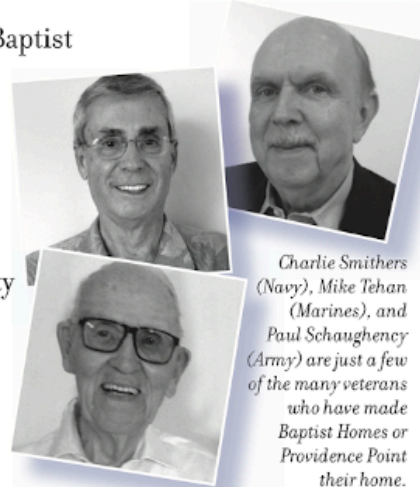
After the war, it took me years before I could sleep through the night. The nightmares were awful. I would startle easily and didn't know why. I didn't go out much. It took sixty years before I found out I had something called Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. But I have no regrets. I served my country, and it owes me nothing. I just feel sorry for the ones who never made it back.

*Excerpted from The Italian Campaign: One Soldier's Story of a Forgotten War by Albert DeFazio as told to Valerie DeFazio Vacula. Valerie's book may be purchased on Amazon.com*

## We salute our veterans.

For more than a century, Baptist Homes Society has been a leader in providing compassionate care and enriched living to seniors in our region. We are committed to excellence, offering the highest quality of senior living and care.

We thank our residents and all seniors who have served our country proudly.



Charlie Smithers (Navy), Mike Tehan (Marines), and Paul Schaughency (Army) are just a few of the many veterans who have made Baptist Homes or Providence Point their home.

**Baptist HOMES**

489 Castle Shannon Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15234  
[www.baptisthomes.org](http://www.baptisthomes.org)  
PH: 412-563-6550

**Providence POINT**

500 Providence Point Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15243  
[www.providencepoint.org](http://www.providencepoint.org)  
PH: 412-489-3550



## Honoring all who served.

*Our wish is to respect yours...*

We salute the Veterans Breakfast Club as they capture the history of the men and women who served our country.

**JOHN F. SLATER FUNERAL HOME, INC.**  
Funerals • Cremations • Life Celebrations

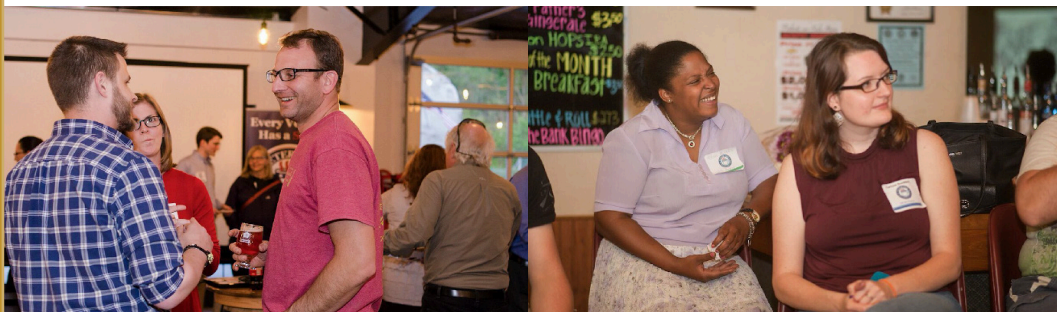
4201 Brownsville Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227

412.881.4100  
[johnfslater.com](http://johnfslater.com)





# VBC 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



## SNAPSHOT OF 2017

**65** TOTAL EVENTS

**44** MORNING EVENTS

**21** EVENING EVENTS

**5,015** EVENT ATTENDEES

**700+** VETERANS' STORIES RECORDED

**43** PODCASTS RELEASED WITH

**8,589** TOTAL LISTENS

**112** MEDIA PRODUCTIONS INCLUDING PODCASTS, LONG FORM VIDEO INTERVIEWS, SHORT FORM AUDIO AND VIDEO STORIES AND LIVE EVENT RECORDINGS



Since 2008, the Veterans Breakfast Club has been creating communities of listening around veterans and their stories. We've held over 350 veteran storytelling events—all open to the public—with almost 30,000 people attending. Our mission is to connect veterans to the community through their stories—to educate, to inspire, and to heal. We record the stories told and share our interviews and conversations with veterans through podcasts, videos, and radio shorts. Listening to veterans is the best way to thank them for their service.

“ IT HAS GIVEN ME A MUCH TRUER IDEA OF WHAT OUR MILITARY CONFLICTS ARE ABOUT: **THE GOOD AND THE BAD**, REAL, NO VARNISH, NO SKIPPING THE DIFFICULT PARTS. ”

-NON-VETERAN

“ [VBC EVENTS] MAKE ME FEEL THAT **I AM NOT ALONE** IN THIS WORLD. ”

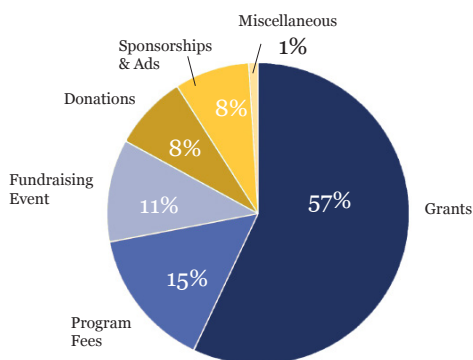
-POST 9/11 VETERAN

“ THIS IS THE **MOST THERAPEUTIC THING** I HAVE DONE POST-ARMY. ”

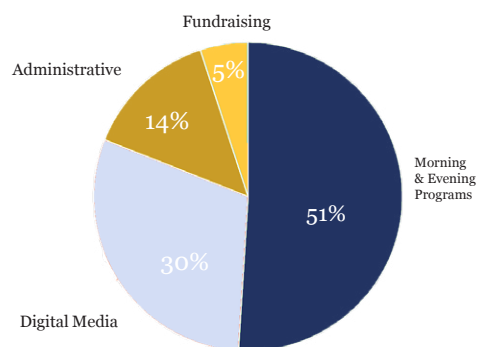
-POST 9/11 VETERAN

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### INCOME BY SOURCE



### EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM







# VBC SURVEY RESULTS



185 VETERANS SURVEYED

121 CIVILIANS SURVEYED

■ EXTREMELY/VERY MUCH  
■ SOMEWHAT  
■ SLIGHTLY  
■ NOT AT ALL

VETERANS: I BELIEVE THERE IS A HEALING BENEFIT FOR THE VETERANS WHO SHARE THEIR STORIES.

95%

EXTREMELY/  
VERY MUCH



NON-VETERANS: I HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BURDENS CARRIED BY COMBAT VETERANS

89%

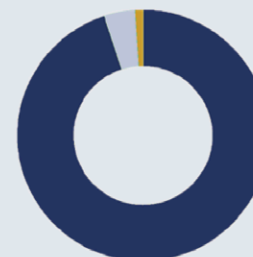
EXTREMELY/  
VERY MUCH



VETERANS: I THINK THE NON-VETERANS AT THE EVENTS WERE ATTENTIVE AND TRULY LISTENING TO THE STORIES BEING SHARED

91%

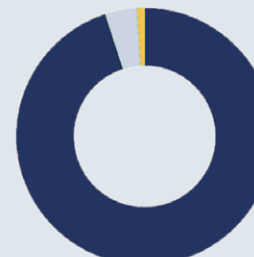
EXTREMELY/  
VERY MUCH



NON-VETERANS: I GAINED NEW INSIGHTS ABOUT WHAT MAKES OUR VETERANS SPECIAL, SUCH AS THEIR SKILLS, LEADERSHIP AND CHARACTER

87%

EXTREMELY/  
VERY MUCH



“ EVERY EVENT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO ATTEND, HEAR THE STORIES, KEEP THE MEMORIES ALIVE. IT IS GREAT TO HAVE A PLACE TO **BELONG, SHARE, AND HEAL.** ”

- VETERAN

“ I HAVE A **BETTER UNDERSTANDING** ABOUT THE HARDSHIPS & HOW IT HAS AFFECTED OUR MILITARY. I HAVE LEARNED SO MANY THINGS I NEVER KNEW THEY ARE VERY BRAVE & I FEEL SO HONORED TO BE AROUND EACH OF THEM. ”

- NON-VETERAN

## LOOKING FORWARD



2018 marks ten years since we first gathered a small group of WWII veterans at a hotel banquet room in the South Hills for what we would later call “The Veterans Breakfast Club.” As those veterans shared their stories that morning in 2008, we couldn’t have dreamed that our friendly little club would grow into a region-wide non-profit serving thousands of veterans, families, neighbors, and friends throughout Western Pennsylvania. This year, we travel to Vietnam with veterans to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive. In September, we’ll take WWII veterans back to the beaches of Normandy, as well as Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, and Germany. We’ll continue our podcasting and will launch a series of townhall events to address big issues facing veterans and the community at large. Join us!

"I am **stronger**  
because of  
**HealthSouth.**"

-ANTHONY  
Stroke survivor

DEMAND  
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Harmarville • Sewickley

877-937-7342

[www.demandhealthsouth.com](http://www.demandhealthsouth.com)



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DEPASTINO**

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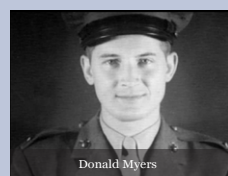
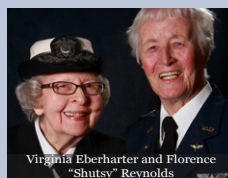
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*Like the look of this newsletter? Your feedback is welcome!*

## TO VBC VETERANS AND FRIENDS WHO RECENTLY PASSED, WE SALUTE YOU.

Ray Book, WWII Army • Walter Carson, WWII Army • Don Cue, Korea Army • Bill Deiss, Vietnam Army • Virginia Eberharter, Navy WWII-Cold War Bob Loftus, WWII Army • Ralph Logan, WWII Army Air Corps • Dean McMillen, Cold War Navy • George Milne, WWII Navy • Paul Mulvehill, WWII, Korea, Navy • Donald Myers, WWII Marines • Ed Ott, Cold War Navy • Florence "Shutsy" Reynolds, WASP WWII • Cathy Schaugency, WWII Homefront • Bill Sharkey, WWII Navy • George Spaulding, WWII Army • George Wray, WWII Army Ralph Zyskowski, WWII Army



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### VETERANS OF UNDERAGE MILITARY SERVICE

Did you join the service underage? If so, consider joining Veterans of Underage Military Service! We have only one requirement for full membership; U.S. military service under the age of 17 (under 16 for World War II Merchant Marine vets and under 20 years of age for women veterans of World War II) If you meet this single requirement, you may join us now.  
<http://www.oldvums.org>  
or 1-888-653-8867.

### VETERAN REGISTRIES

VBC volunteer Jim Jamieson is registering veterans with the WWII Memorial and Korean War Memorial. We encourage you to register yourself or loved ones. For assistance with registering, please contact Jim at 800 Linda Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15243 or [jim@veteransbreakfastclub.com](mailto:jim@veteransbreakfastclub.com)

## DO YOU HAVE A RELATIVE WHO SERVED WITH THE 80TH BLUE RIDGE DIVISION IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR?

University professor Connie Ruzich is seeking first-hand accounts (letters, diaries, etc.) from men with the 80th, particularly those in the 318th regiment. If you know of sources that could be of help with her research, email [ruzich@rmu.edu](mailto:ruzich@rmu.edu) or phone 412-397-6453.



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