

Memorandum

DATE: APRIL 21, 2007

TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

FROM: Allen W. Gumpenberger
DAV NSO Supervisor
Transportation Committee Chairman

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION REPORT

The debate continues. Arguing the VA should be picking up more veterans to include blind, Ex-POW's, 100 percent service connected etc., will not result in them actually picking these guys up. Bottom line, we need to do it. Rick Newell and Tim Kelly have continued to provide a valuable service as our Hospital Service Coordinators. We have a new member of the team; John Carbone from Chapter 5 is currently being trained to assist Rick Newell with his Hospital Service Coordinator duties.

We need drivers in many areas. We have lost several drivers through attrition and need to refill our ranks. The most desperate area where drivers are needed are Norwich, Meriden, and Bridgeport areas. If you or someone you know is physically and mentally able to transport veterans to and from the VAMC using the DAV vans, please contact us as soon as possible. New drivers will be required to undergo a physical examination provided by the VAMC before they are authorized to drive. In order to help the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) find new volunteers, I created a flyer to put up around the VA, a copy is attached.

Even if you can only volunteer one day out of the week, it would be helpful. You let us know when you can drive and we try to arrange patient pick-ups for that time. Ed Burke, who is now with Joe Courtney's office, is trying to help us find volunteer drivers for the Willimantic area.

After much thought, I believe the DAV Transportation program should be the premiere transportation network in the state and the VA's should be picking up those individuals incapable of getting in and out of our vans.

Commander, the dedication of Rick, Tim, and our volunteer drivers is encouraging. Their efforts to consistently provide transportation services to Connecticut's veterans are tireless.

As we look into the future, it has become apparent that we need to develop a real vision of how our transportation program needs to change and grow with the ever-changing demands of Connecticut's veterans. We have an aging veteran population. The VAMC patient base is expanding. Patients are being scheduled for appointments through out the entire day. More and more of these patients are unable to transport themselves. Over the next few years, we are going to need to think outside of the box to meet this growing need for our service.

Remember, our goal is to help build better lives for disabled veterans and their families and helping these veterans get the quality healthcare they need is crucial to this goal. I look forward to working with the Department to develop a real strategy to overcome the difficult obstacles ahead. In closing, I appreciate your continued trust in me to carry out this position.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Gumpenberger

Allen W. Gumpenberger
Supervisor
National Service Officer

cc: Claimant

Attached: DAV Volunteer Driver Flyer

WANTED
(PREFERABLY ALIVE)
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

**TO TRANSPORT
VETERANS TO AND FROM
VAMC APPOINTMENTS**

TO TURN YOURSELF IN: PLEASE CONTACT:

Newington: RICK NEWELL, HSC, 860-667-6759

West Haven: TIM KELLY, HSC, 860-932-5711 ext. 3575

ONCE APPREHENDED, VOLUNTEERS WILL BE SUBJECT TO PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS AND BE SENTENCED TO HELPING IN THE TRANSPORTATION EFFORTS OF FELLOW VETERANS.

(Volunteers need not be a member of the DAV or another veterans' organization)