



# The Bugle Call



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Warminster, Pennsylvania

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ANN'S CHOICE RESIDENTS AND GUESTS ARE INVITED TO THIS FREE PROGRAM - (Club membership is not required)

## NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, May 30, 2017  
at 11:00 am, Ann's Choice Chapel  
2017 Memorial Day Service**

The Memorial Day service will be held on Tuesday, May 30 at 11:00 in the Ann's Choice Chapel. Major General (ret) Wesley Craig will be the speaker. Major General Craig is a former commander of the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and former Adjutant General of Pennsylvania. General Craig's speech will be "Memorial Day, the Day to Remember".

This is our annual service to recognize and honor those veterans from Ann's Choice who passed away during the past year.

The Ann's Choice Chorus will be performing "A Patriotic Fantasy" by George M. Cohan, and "The Red, White, and Blue" by John w. Peterson.

All members are encouraged to wear their Veterans Group shirts to the memorial service.

## Bucks County Tours of Honor

On Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Tour of Honor to Washington, DC, for Vietnam Veterans and for other veterans who served during that time. Six buses scheduled for this Tour are full; standby registrations are being accepted and they will have first priority for the next Vietnam Tour.

There will be another Tour of Honor in October for World War II and Korean War veterans. Bob Swan has applications for this Tour. More information can be found at [www.BucksCountyTourofHonor.org](http://www.BucksCountyTourofHonor.org).

## New Members

A big welcome to Harry E. Beam (US Navy, during the Suez Canal crisis in the mid 1950's) who has recently joined the Ann's Choice Veteran's Group.

## June 2017 Meeting

The June meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20 at 7:30 pm in the Ann's Choice PAC.

More information will be in the June newsletter.

## Rides to Horsham VA Center

Do you need assistance getting to the Horsham VA Center? Or do you know a veteran who needs assistance?

The Veterans Group has a group of volunteers who will provide transportation. For more information, contact Judy Wright at (215) 674-2328.

## Notice for Marine Corps Veterans

Did you serve a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) at Camp Lejeune, NC between August 1953 and December 1987?

The VA Dept. has published regulations to establish presumptions for service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune.

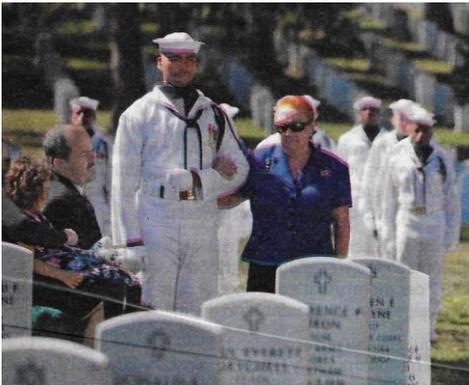
The presumption applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served there for the time specified above, and who are diagnosed with any of the following conditions: adult leukemia; aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes ; bladder cancer; kidney cancer; liver cancer; multiple myeloma; non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma; or Parkinson's disease.

You and / or eligible family members may be eligible for VA health benefits. For more information, contact the Bucks County Dept. of Military Affairs, Neshaminy Manor Center, 1260 Almshouse Road, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Doylestown; Dan Fraley, Director, (215) 345-3037.

## A Personal Touch at Duty's End Arlington Ladies Add Comfort to Funerals at Arlington National Cemetery

On any weekday in Arlington National Cemetery, as many as 30 war dead and veterans are laid to rest. The funeral ritual includes a spit and-polish honor guard, the sharp crack of a rifle volley, a bugler's mournful taps and the presentation of a folded American flag. Then comes a moment of comforting.

An Arlington Lady quietly speaks to the family and gives an envelope to the next of kin.



Arlington Lady Paula McKinley regularly attends Navy funerals at Arlington National cemetery

"A military funeral is very precise," says Margaret Mensch, chair of the Army Arlington Ladies. "We give the personal touch."

In swelter and snow, Arlington Ladies ensure

that no active duty or veteran soldier, sailor, airman or Coast Guardsman is buried alone.

The envelopes contain a condolence card from the armed service's chief of staff and a note the Arlington Lady has handwritten, often after researching the service member online.

Arlington Ladies began in 1948, when Air Force chief of staff Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg and his wife, Gladys, noticed that sometimes only the military chaplain was present at Arlington funerals. Someone from the Air Force family should always be there, they agreed, and she recruited friends at the Officers' Wives Club.

In 1973, Julia Abrams, wife of Army Gen. Creighton Abrams, formed an Army wives' group. A Navy group started in 1985, and the Coast Guard followed in 2006. A representative of the Marine commandant's office attends every Marine funeral.

Altogether, about 200 women – in the past, their numbers also included two men – participate in the program at any given time.

Each has a connection to the service as wife, mother, widow or veteran.

One day a month, Sandra Griffin, 52 – who retired as a major after 23 years on active duty – writes sympathy notes to Air Force families she's never met and attends funerals. "It's a way to still serve;" she says. "It's a comfort to the families. Some reach out to hold your hand and say thank you:'

The total number of funerals Arlington Ladies have attended is not known. But to give an idea, the Army volunteers have witnessed almost 30,000 funerals since 2000.

Ladies wear name badges and have a military escort. Each group has its own rules. For example, Navy Ladies also attend funerals of spouses of living servicemen and veterans.

"We're not there as a sympathizer or mourner" but as a witness, says Nancy Reed, co-chair of the Air Force group.

Paula McKinley, an Arlington Lady for 25 years and chair of the Navy group, calls their participation "a team effort."

Joyce Johnson became an Army Arlington Lady four years after her husband, Dennis, 48, was killed on 9/11 in the attack on the Pentagon and was buried at Arlington. "We do it from our hearts," she says. "My heart breaks at every funeral."

One unwritten rule applies to all Arlington Ladies: They don't cry. Ever. "Once in a while you come close to tears-when it's a young, active-duty soldier, a young widow and young kids," Mensch says. "But you don't cry."

From *AARP Bulletin / Real Possibilities*, Nov. 2016, by Marsha Mercer who is an independent journalist in Northern Virginia.

### Valet Service Volunteer Opportunity

The Valet Services group assists residents with seating at events in the PAC and at the chapel. With the next term of ACLLA underway and the RAC and Executive Town Hall meeting additional volunteers are welcome to assist with this service. Contact Russ Neiger at (610) 930-3077 for more information about serving fellow residents through this program.

### EXPO on Thursday, May 4, 10:00 to Noon

There will be an Expo for prospective and current residents in the Keystone Multipurpose Room. The Veterans Group will have a table.