

February, 2018, Volume 8, Num. 2

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

NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, February 20, 2018
at 7:30 pm, Ann's Choice PAC**



The February meeting of Ann's Choice Veterans Group in 2018 will feature a program by Ann's Choice resident Gordon Larson. He will present an informative program on several famous historical individuals who had air bases or army airfields named for them.

Do you recognize either one of these two military pilots? A (now closed) Air Force Base was named for one; and an intercontinental airport was renamed for the father of the other.



Valet Service Volunteer Opportunity

The Valet Services group assists residents with seating at events in the PAC and at the Chapel. With the monthly RAC and Executive Town Hall meetings, additional volunteers are welcome to assist with this service. Contact Russ Neiger at (610) 930-3077 for more information.

Bucks County Tour of Honor

On Monday, October 1, 2018 there will be a Bucks County Tour of Honor to Washington, DC, for World War II and Korean War veterans. Sign up early to be sure of a seat on one of the buses. Bob Swan will have applications at the February Veterans Group meeting.

March Meeting

The March meeting will be on Tuesday evening, March 20 at 7:30 in the PAC. More information about the meeting will be in the March 2018 issue of *The Bugle Call*.

Faster VA Claims Decisions

Thinking of filing another VA disability compensation claim? Make sure you file it through the new Decision Ready Claim (DRC) Program. With DRC, you can get a decision on your claim in 30 days or less.



Work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) to

determine if the DRC Program is right for you and your claim. Your VSO can then help you gather and submit all relevant and required evidence so your claim is ready for VA to make a decision when you submit it.

If you plan to file any of the following types of claims, work with your VSO to file them as a DRC:

- **Direct Service Connection Claims:** Claims for a disability that was caused by or during your service.
- **Presumptive Service Connection Claims:** Claims for a disability that VA automatically presumes to be service-connected based on unique conditions or situations you experienced during your service.
- **Secondary Service Connection Claims:** Claims for a disability that you have as a result of another service-connected disability.

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Fisher House - Helping Military Families

Fisher House Foundation builds comfortable homes where military & veterans families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital.



These homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world.

Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths.

Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a

warm dining room and an inviting living room.

Since inception, the program has saved military and veterans' families an estimated \$360 million in out of pocket costs for lodging and transportation.

In the words of Pauline Trost:

"In the mid-1970's, as I came onto the grounds of the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda for a clinic visit, I saw a helicopter land at the medical center heliport. A sailor, his wife and two children came down the steps with their luggage. I wondered where they would stay. Living in the D. C. area, I knew that hotels and motels in the Bethesda area were expensive and likely beyond the means of couples such as this one. These thoughts remained on my mind for years.

"When my husband became the Chief of Naval Operations in 1986, I thought this might be a good time to pursue my dream of providing affordable temporary housing for families of those facing a medical crisis at Bethesda. I spoke with Mrs. Iris Reiman, then president of the Washington area Naval Officers Wives Club, and asked her if she would explore how members felt about taking on such a project. She brought up the subject at next meeting and reported agreement on planning the concept. We originally thought about finding an unused or underused building on the medical center grounds which could be converted into a place for people to stay on a temporary basis.

"In early 1990, my husband received a call from our friend, Zachary Fisher, who had provided generous assistance to families of service personnel beset by tragedy. Zachary indicated that he was prepared he was prepared to expand his support and asked my husband for thoughts on

Faster VA Claims Decisions, continued

- **Increased Disability Claims:** Claims for a disability you have a VA rating for that has gotten worse.

Not planning to file a claim soon? Spread the word to your fellow Veterans, service members and their families about the DRC Program to help them get faster decisions on their claims. The DRC Program also now accepts Pre-Discharge claims for Service members about to transition to civilian life, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) claims for surviving spouses.

Learn more about the DRC Program, including eligibility requirements, what medical evidence you need to submit, and how to find an accredited VSO at this secure website -

www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/drc.asp.

Information may also be available through the Bucks County Veterans Affairs office – Lynn Hanes, Veterans Asst., 7321 New Falls Rd, Levittown, (267) 580-3560.

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Fisher House, continued

projects he might undertake which would benefit personnel of all military services. Among other ideas, my husband mentioned my dream. Zachary was taken by the concept and we discussed it further. He said, 'I'm a builder, I have my own architect, we can do this.' Things moved rapidly thereafter, bureaucratic hurdles were overcome, a site was identified for the first house, and in 1991, the first Fisher House opened with President and Mrs. Bush joining the Fishers and us at the dedication ceremony. The dream had come true.

"Zachary Fisher told me later it was the most satisfying thing he'd ever done. In a letter to my husband and me in January, 1992, commenting on a thank-you letter from a wife who had stayed at Fisher House I at Bethesda, he wrote: 'The attached letter says it all. I knew how important the Fisher Houses would be - but I never imagined how many lives would be changed!'"

By 2016 there were 71 Fisher Houses. The Fisher House Foundation has served more than 307,000 families and provided over 7 million days of lodging.

(see www.FisherHouse.org for more info)