

PRESIDENT
(Acting)
Mary Hurly
609-502-8578
VICE PRESIDENT
Bob Swan
215-674-1935
SECRETARY
Bob McQue
215-264-5162
TREASURER
Rose Torgerson
215-672-1416
PAST PRESIDENT
Gordon Larson
630-926-7334
CB1 DIRECTORS
(VACANT)
(VACANT)
CB2 DIRECTORS
James Morgan
215-682-0187
JOHN HODGES
215323-4969
CB3 DIRECTORS
Jim Seyboldt
267-01-4320
(VACANT)
SGT AT ARMS
Burt Korn
267-282-5127
SERVICE OFFICER
Jerry Byrnes
(917) 572-9346
CHAPLAIN
Louis Schmid
267-282-5466
SHIRTS /
MEMBERSHIP
Bob Swan
215-674-1935
PROGRAM
Larry Rubini
267-261-7702
VALET SERVICES
Jim Morgan
215-682-0187
HONOR GUARD
Jim Seyboldt
267-401-4320
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The Bugle Call



October 2023, Volume 13, Number 9

Warminster, Pennsylvania

*Ann's Choice Residents and Guests are invited to attend Veterans Group Programs and Events
(Meetings are open to ALL with no charge)*

Veterans Group Program in the Keystone Multipurpose Room on October 16 at 10:00am



The Veterans Group has moved the day and location on its program meetings.

On **Monday, October 16**, the Veterans Group will meet in the **Keystone Multipurpose Room at 10:00 am** for an exciting program presented



by Robert Craven, President, Guardians of the National Cemetery. He will present an informative program about military honors provided to veterans on interment at Washington Crossing National Cemetery.

All programs of the Ann's Choice Veterans Group are open to all residents and guests. Invite your friends and neighbors to this informative program on Monday, October 16 in the Multipurpose Room at 10:00 am.

Meeting Schedule for 2023

The Veterans Group will meet in the PAC these days, except as noted:

Jan. 17 – Business Meeting, Program

Feb. 21 – Program Only

Mar. 21 – Program Only

Apr. 18 – Business Meeting, Program

May 16 – Military Movie Night

May 30 – Memorial Day Service (Chapel)

Jun. 20 – Business Meeting, Election, Program,

Jul. 18 – Military Movie Night

Aug. 15 – Military Movie Night

Mon., Sep. 18 – Program Only

Mon., Oct. 16 – Business

Meeting and Program

(New day – Monday;

new time – 10:00 am,

new location – Keystone

Multipurpose Room)

Fri., Nov. 10 – Veterans Day

Program, Liberty Commons PAC

Tues., Dec. 12 – Military Movie Night,
Liberty Commons PAC

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Veterans Day Program

The Ann's Choice Veterans Group will present the annual Veterans Day program on Friday, November 10 at 11:00 am in the Liberty Commons PAC



The program will be on the origin, history and function of the United States Coast Guard as well as its involvement

in this country's wars.

The “Football” That Follows the President Everywhere

Officially known as the “president’s emergency satchel,” the so-called nuclear “Football” — hand-carried — is built around a sturdy aluminum frame, encased in black leather. A retired Football, shown below, emptied of its top-secret contents, is currently on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. “We were looking for something that would demonstrate the incredible military power and responsibilities of the president, and we struck upon this iconic object,” says curator Harry Rubenstein.

Contrary to popular belief, the Football does not



From the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, the nuclear “Football.” (Jamie Chung)

actually contain a big red button for launching a nuclear war. Its primary purpose is to confirm the president’s identity, and it allows him to communicate with the National Military Command

Center in the Pentagon, which monitors worldwide nuclear threats and can order an instant response. The Football also provides the commander in chief with a simplified menu of nuclear strike options—allowing him to decide, for example, whether to destroy all of America’s enemies in one fell swoop or to limit himself to obliterating only Moscow or Pyongyang or Beijing.

Although its origins remain highly classified, the Football can be traced back to the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. Privately, John F. Kennedy believed that nuclear weapons were, as he put it, “only good for deterring.” He also felt it was “insane that two men, sitting on opposite sides of the world, should be able to decide to bring an end to civilization.” Horrified by the doctrine known as MAD (mutually assured destruction), JFK ordered locks to be placed on nuclear weapons and demanded alternatives to the “all or nothing” nuclear war plan.

A declassified Kennedy memo documents the concerns that led to the invention of the Football as a system for verifying the identity of the commander in chief. The president posed the following chilling, but commonsense, questions:

“What would I say to the Joint War Room to launch an immediate nuclear strike?”

“How would the person who received my instructions verify them?”

These were important questions. ICBMs with nuclear warheads had recently been added to the arsenals of both the United States and the USSR. Travel time for an ICBM from launch to target was approximately 30 minutes. Flight times for bombers were measured in hours. And bombers can be recalled; ICBMs cannot be recalled.

The earliest known photograph of a military aide trailing the president with



From the National Security Archive on [nsarchive.gwu.edu](https://www.nsarchive.gwu.edu)

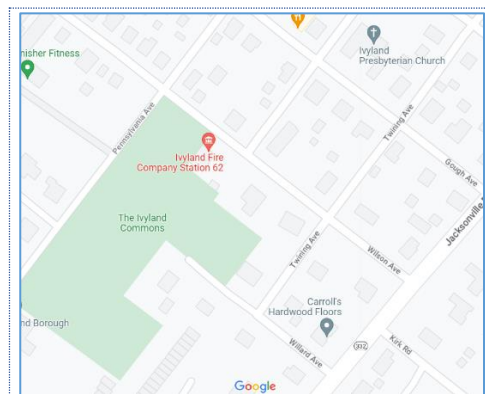
the telltale black briefcase was taken on May 10, 1963, at the Kennedy family compound in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. Since 1963, the Football has become a staple of presidential trips, and was even photographed in Red Square in May 1988, accompanying President Ronald Reagan on a state visit to the Soviet Union. (Reagan’s Soviet counterpart, Mikhail Gorbachev, was accompanied by a military aide who was clutching a very similar device, known in Russian as the *chemodanchik*, or “little briefcase.”)

The “Football” is carried by one of six rotating presidential military aides (one from each of the armed forces service branches), whose work schedule is top-secret. Each is a commissioned officer in the U.S. military, pay-grade O-4 or above, who has undergone the nation’s most rigorous background check. These officers must keep the football readily accessible to the president at all times. Consequently, the aide, football in hand, is always either standing or walking near the president, including riding on Air Force One, on Marine One, or in the presidential motorcade with the president.

A major component of the 1960s "Black Bag" was the "SIOP Execution Handbook," also known as the "Gold Book," with details on the Single Integrated Operational Plan (this was later replaced by OPLAN 8010) attack options available to decision-makers. Kennedy had received several briefings on the SIOP, which acquainted him with its basic features. To protect such sensitive contents by November 1963, the "Black Bag" was a "thirty-pound metal suitcase with an intricate combination lock." There was some consideration during 1965 of finding ways to reduce the weight, apparently to no avail because recent accounts describe the weight as 45 pounds. There are three nuclear footballs; two are allocated to the president and vice president, and the third is stored in the White House. The practice of also providing an aide with a football to the vice president, to whom command authority would devolve if the president is disabled, began during the Carter administration. In presidential transitions, the president-elect does not receive the actual nuclear code card until after the nuclear briefing, which usually occurs when "he meets with the outgoing president at the White House just before the actual inauguration ceremony. The code card is activated electronically right after the president-elect takes the oath at noon". TV often shows the aide with the football shifting their gaze to the new president at that moment.

Sources include an article from *The Smithsonian* by Michael Dobbs (He a former *Washington Post* reporter and foreign correspondent in Italy and the former Yugoslavia, best known for his Cold War coverage.); articles on businessinsider.com and on Wikipedia; picture from the National Security Archives (nsarchive.gwu.edu), and reflections of a former ICBM Missile Combat Crew Commander.

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Google Maps

Proper Flag Disposal

We have learned that an Eagle scout in nearby Ivlyland Borough has set up an American Flag Disposal Container.

The flag disposal

Why Do You Need the Veterans Group?

The Veterans Group provides several services to veterans and fellow residents of Ann's Choice. These include –

- Color Guard for presenting the U. S. flag at Veterans Group programs and at some Ann's Choice programs.
- Annual Memorial Day remembrance service in the Chapel for veterans.
- Annual program on Veterans Day. Deploying and retrieving memorial flags in front of the clubhouses.
- Deploying and retrieving small flags around the campus.
- Valet service for mobility devices
- Free transportation to the Horsham VA clinic.
- Military movie nights in the PAC.
- Having this newsletter to read.

It takes volunteers to make these things happen.

Even if you don't use some of these services now,

there may come a time in the future when you need to take advantage of them. Our concern is that due to the declining number of veterans or the lack of awareness of the need for volunteers, we may not be able to provide needed services in the future.

If you are a veteran or an interested resident and would like to help provide these services in the future,

please contact one of the officers and volunteers listed in the left-most column on page 1.

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unit is in the Memorial site on Wilson Avenue just after the Firehouse and playground. All flags deposited into the disposal unit will be disposed of properly according to US law.



Veterans Flags

For certain national holidays, the Ann's Choice Veterans Group deploys government-issued U. S. flags in front of each clubhouse. The holidays are Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day. There are twenty-one in-ground mounts in front of the three clubhouses and Rose Garden. These flags



have been donated to the Veterans Group by families of veterans.

Twenty-one flags are deployed on the three holidays. Volunteers deploy these flags and take them in after the holiday. **Volunteers are needed.** If you would like to join this team as a way to honor veterans, contact Gordon Larson at (630) 926-7334.

Membership Open

At the Veterans Group meeting in June 2022 the membership approved changes to the By-Laws to expand eligibility to all residents for membership in the Veterans Group. Veterans may apply to be a Member, and non-Veterans may apply to be an Associate Supporting Member. Lifetime membership fees are \$50 and \$35 respectively.

All members 1) receive a copy this monthly newsletter, *The Bugle Call*, 2) will not be asked for a donation at Military Movie Night if wearing their Veterans Group shirt, and 3) may participate in any of the service projects of the Veterans Group. Note: Associate Supporting Members are not eligible to be elected to the Board of Directors.

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Wreaths Across America

This December 16 will be National Wreaths Across America day when balsam veterans' wreaths will be placed on the headstones of our fallen heroes, including those at

Washington Crossing National Cemetery. The mission of Wreaths Across America is

Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve.
Teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Celebrate All Our New Members

A big welcome to the following new members who have joined the Veterans Group:

- Don Pullano (Mar. 1968 – Dec. 1969, U. S. Army, Vietnam)
- Joanne Bahmiller
- Patrick Hoy (May 1959 – Mar 1965 and May 1979 – May 2002, U. S. Navy, NAS MPLS and NAS Willow Grove)

AV Opportunities



There is an opportunity to help with the Veterans Group during the meetings and programs in the Multipurpose Room and for Military Movie Nights in the PAC

by volunteering to help with AV services.

Contact Keith Lawrence at (215) 444-0116 for more information about this service opportunity.

VA Benefits

You may have received an application for VA benefits recently in a mailing from PA with the



renewal for your driver's license. If you are not already registered

for VA benefits, take this opportunity to sign up.

The Veterans Group Service Officer, Jerry Byrnes is available to answer any questions you may have about enrollment. He has blank forms and can be reached by phone at 917 572-9346 or e-mail at jgbyrnes54@yahoo.com.

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If you would like to help support this effort, you may donate through the Ann's Choice Veterans Group. All donations will be combined and added to the Veterans Group own donation and mailed to Wreaths Across America in Columbia, Maine. To donate through the Veterans Group, make your check payable to "**Ann's Choice – Veterans Group**" and put "**Wreaths Across America**" in the memo. Note that by combining your donation with others, your name will not be added to their mailing list. Put your donation in cubby PV-318, Rose Torgerson.