

Veterans for Unification

N * E * W * S

April 2023

Our mission is to educate the Veteran community and support quality care and benefits for all Veterans in the VA Healthcare System.

Next Meeting: Saturday June 3, 2023 10-11:30 AM

Oak Park Public Library

Veterans Room ~ 2nd floor 834 Lake Street Oak Park, IL 708-383-8200

Wheel Chair Accessible ~ parking in Basement Garage

Light Refreshments

Message from the VU Executive Committee



In Memoriam : Wayne M. Majewski 1949 - 2023

Veterans for Unification extends condolences to the family and friends of Wayne M. Majewski, affectionately known as "Sarge". Wayne had been a member for many years and also a generous benefactor. Until the past years due to illness, Wayne was proud to drive his Crown Victoria to meetings and enjoyed the comradery of fellow veterans beside the cheesecake.

Wayne ~ *Rest in Peace!* We will miss you.

Pritzker Military Museum and Library ~ 104 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago IL 60603 ~ 312-374-9333

Permanent Exhibit: **Medal of Honor** highlights those who have received the United States' highest award for valor in combat.

Upcoming exhibit: **Tet and the Battle of Hue ~ May 16 - October 2, 2023**

Veterans for Unification is a not for profit 501c (3) organization. Address: 805 Lake Street, #198, Oak Park, IL

Wash your hands ~ wear a mask ~ practice social distancing. ~ get vaccines

Check out our website: veteransforunification.org

For more info: 773-736-1941

Elizabeth Soto, Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County, presented the current mission of the VAC ~ to assist veterans with various needs including rent and utilities. There will be an onsite Social Worker from Hines VA weekly to enroll vets. A website in the near future will ensure improved communication. Contact for more information: 312-433-6010

Cynthia McKee, Veterans Service Officer of the Illinois Department of the Veterans Affairs, provided information about benefits for Illinois veterans. Contact for more information: 312-814-3287

Both responded to questions from members. We hope to invite them again to continue to educate and update veterans about changes in their benefits.



Elizabeth Soto, VAC-CC with Cynthia McKee, VSO- IL DEPT VA

June Meeting Agenda: **VU** will introduce a very special guest who serves both as a Hines VA Chaplain and in the military reserves: he will share his unique story.

We will also **vote** on our **officers for 2023**: president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and director (of our civilian membership). We hope you will invite friends, family and comrades to enjoy our meeting and a slice of cheesecake.

Update on Congressional Bills:

HR = in the House of Representatives

HR 2413 (formerly HR 914 / 117th Congress) ~ Dental Care for Veterans Act : This dental care bill, originally HR 96 (2019), was reintroduced in the House of Representatives on 4-14-2023 by Julia Brownley (D-CA) with currently no co-sponsors. Please call your Congressman/woman **today** to request their co-sponsorship.

This bill expands eligibility for veterans for dental care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Specifically, the bill makes all veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system eligible for VA-provided dental services. Currently, only veterans who have a service-connected dental issue or meet other narrow criteria are eligible for certain dental services.

The bill phases in eligibility over four years based upon existing eligibility, degree of service-connected disability or other disability, prisoner of war status, award of Purple Heart, financial need, or VA health care eligibility.

Call 866-220-0044 Toll Free number to Congress: Either a live operator or automated voice will ask you for your zip code and then give you options of the congressman whose district includes that zip code. When you are connected to your congressman, ask for the legislative aide and tell them you request that your congressman co-sponsor Bill HR 2413. Please contact family and friends out of state and other veterans' organizations to which you may belong regarding this bill: we need co-sponsors. Help us get the word out. And make that phone call now!

HR 2413 would furnish dental care in the same manner as medical care in the VA.

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Saturday, June 3, 2023

10 - 11:30 AM

Speakers:

Father Filbert Ngwila, Hines VA Chaplain/Army Veteran

Light refreshments served

Oak Park Public Library

Veterans Room 834 Lake Street Oak Park, IL

Phone 708-383-8200

1 blk west of Oak Park Ave and about 3 blks east of Harlem
Street & indoor parking/WC accessible/Public transportation: contact RTA

Veterans for Unification: For more information~ 773-736-1941

*Veterans for Unification is a not for profit 501c (3) organization:
All donations are tax deductible*

Dues are only \$20 a year for a great organization: please join us today.
This organization welcomes all veterans and those who support veterans.

Send your check or money order to:

Veterans for Unification, 805 Lake St. #198, Oak Park IL 60301

VeteransforUnification.org



Membership Form

I wish to: (Check one) Apply for a new membership to Veterans for Unification.
Renew my membership to Veterans for Unification.

Name: _____ Referred by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____ (Home) _____ (Work)

(Cell) _____

Check one: Veteran
 Associate (non-veteran)

Membership fee:

\$20/Year

Membership fee: \$ _____

I would also like to make a tax
deductible donation to VU:\$ _____

Total enclosed.....\$ _____

Please make checks or money order payable to:
Veterans for Unification

Please mail your completed membership application form and
payment to:

VETERANS FOR UNIFICATION
805 LAKE STREET #198
OAK PARK IL 60301